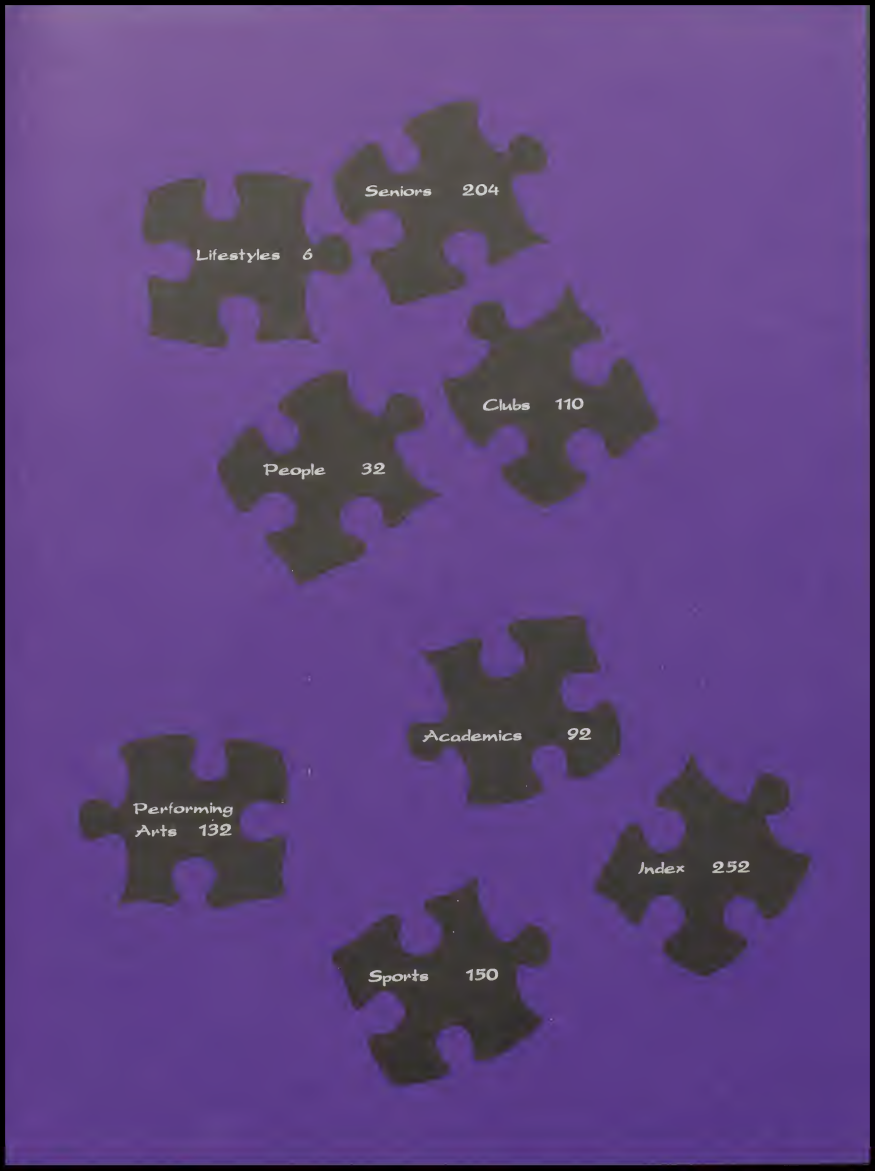


PIECING
IT ALL
TOGETHER

Piecing
It All
Together





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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1999. The public sector has become a major employer in the UK, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy.

The public sector has also become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy. The public sector has become a major provider of social services, and its growth has been a key factor in the overall growth of the economy.

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Piecing IT ALL TOGETHER

While covered in chocolate, Sophomores Dave Uremovich and Nicole Stomper put the school motto, "We strive to succeed," to use as they recover from the pudding slide during annual Homecoming festivities.



Merrillvue
2001-2002

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Student Population 2043 • Staff Population 225 • Web Address www.mvsc.k12.in.us/mhs

Principal Dr. Mark Sperling



“

You cannot
discover new
oceans unless you
have the courage
to lose sight
of the shore.

”

— Author Unknown



Sharing a laugh, Junior Guille Dabu talks with friends while taking a break from class

Even Michael Jordan can't get this much air. Senior Lisa Newell scores another point for the Pirates while Sophomore Amy Wedding backs her up.



Piecing
it all
together

Taking Shape

Walking through the halls of Merrillville High School, anyone can see that no two people are the same. Every individual is a piece of the puzzle we call MHS.

Each person shapes his or her individuality throughout his or her high school career. Through various classes, extra curricular activities and social events, we realize who we are and what we want to do.

When we begin the puzzle, none of us know how it will end. Each year we become closer to "piecing it all together."

With the placing of the last piece, everything takes shape and we take a step back to admire how far we've come.



Performing her dance routine flawlessly, Senior Tamara Bowen makes her senior year on the Dance Team a memorable one



Catching up on her studies, Junior Jacqueline Lipski uses time before class to her advantage

Junior Joey Jordan gasps for air as he struggles to wrestle one of his opponents to the ground



At a Pirate football game, Seniors Megan Mouman, Julie Seagraves, Haatal Dave, Ken Dettlerline, Dave Strom, Erin Morgan, Maegon McPhee, Erin Wolfe and Luke Neinhause look on the field waiting for the next play.





Getting to know opponents is part of Junior Chris Harris's strategy. Crown Point went down in flames because of ideals like his.

Making a trip back to the line, Freshman Tommy Slivko gets a cool treat of ice cream.



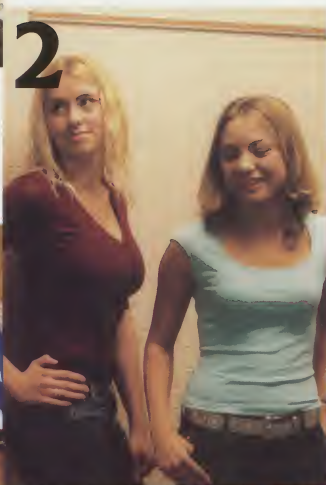
Seniors Michelle Busse and Jontsyn Kloth enjoy a break from their classes during lunch.

Working intensely, Junior Chris Matson and Seniors Krystal Polacios and T aylor Palmateer sculpt their masterpieces.

1



2



3



4



5



6



7

1. Getting on the bus, Sophomore Trevar Eich tries to find a seat. 2. In one of the hallways, Junior Shawna Breitenstein and Freshman Sabrina Carlisle strike a pose for the camera. 3. Sharing a moment together, Sophomores Jason Kendera and Jamie Kisting dance the night away. 4. At BW3 Seniors Mark Maple and Brian Zdych get a bite to eat. 5. Juniors Andy Traupos and Mario DelReal enjoy a break from classes during their lunch hour. 6. After lunch, Junior Jored Byczko and Freshman Kristopher Simanovski scan the crowd that fills the halls. 7. Waiting for the school bus, Freshman Nickolas Vargias holds Freshman Ashley McCoy a hair clip.



2:54 p.m!!! We're off to venture into the other world beyond Merrillville High School, whether it's a job, a party, a game or simply hanging out with friends.

Many different people pass through the hallways everyday. With all the unique styles and trends that enter into the minds of the students, it is hard to consider all of us as one. From funky pants to wild and crazy hair, we shine with bright colors.

We truly do what we love when out of school. Jobs may be a nuisance for some, but others enjoy making the money that buys them things and takes them places. Jobs give many of us the opportunity to meet new people and experience life in the real world.

Friends in high school are perhaps one of the more important factors during our days at MHS. Friends shape our personality, guide each other or in some cases, turn against each other. Friends accomplish goals together, get into trouble together, but most of all, make a handful of memories and piece it all together.

**The bell rings.
Classes are done for the day. Don't stress out.
Find time to play.**

This smiling circle of friends has fun wherever they go. Juniors Brittany Williams, Cara Gray, Kristina Damjanaska, Seniors Elizabeth Ilievski, Kristyn Vallancourt, Juniors Diana Hughes, Megan Pawl, Mary Kate Lucas, Manique Navarra, and Damonique Garbay enjoy each other's company.

These friends, Jimmy Ciani, Bryan Head, David Spalaris, Nick Andreatos, Tony Degard, Ricky Tantis, Ray Ortiz, Emmanuel Kazanis, Aneta Sikoska, Dannie Freeman, Casey Czekala, Carey Kesler, Alex Sotarski, Louis Panayi, Nick Mileas, Dannie Metlavski and Manika Cadikvaska, like to hang together in and out of school, at parties and at Zera Gravity.



This posse, out of school, competes in the Special Olympics. Steve Gaines, Mike Janczka, Damien Dilbane, Amanda Rysiewicz, Amanda Jaselyn, Erin Caughlin enjoy listening to Britney Spears, watching television, going to the theater, reading books and playing games.

Hanging out in the cafeteria, Sophomores Diana Prentaski, Nicole Stampor, Ashley Gidley, Julie Collins, and Jenna Hill escape the crowded hallways. They enjoy riding horses, having fun at Celebration Station, going to the movies and partying at Nicole's.



Senior Nedeljka Djordjevic moved here last year to get away from the war in Serbia.



Freshman Jaymini Dove often joins other Hindu students to perform a special dance. During this sacred dance called the "Garba," they dance around an image of a god.



Visiting Greece frequently, Junior Nick Mileas keeps the Greek traditions alive. He was actively involved in a Greek folklore group for two years.



Senior Chia Chiang received help learning the English language from a fellow student. Chiang, who speaks both Taiwanese and Mandarin Chinese, has studied German for four years.

Cliques & Nationalities

With all the students of different nationalities at Merrillville High School, it seems like one giant jigsaw puzzle. We all may be different, but it's up to us to make the pieces fit.

Moving from Moraista, Macedonia, Senior Pere Dorsuleski is used to celebrating the Orthodox Christmas on January 7. At MHS Junior Kwame Asabere is just another student walking around the hallways; but in Africa, Kwame is a prince.

Students might be completely oblivious to all the nationalities, but they should realize the obstacles that some students go through to adapt to school society. Interestingly, incorporating the nationalities of the school completes the puzzle.

Glancing around MHS, you will notice all the different types of cliques. Each group has its own unique qualities. Strolling the halls you can see preppy groups, jocks, alternative crowds and typical people that just like to lay back. Some cliques have a mélange of people, not just one type.

Senior Jason Williams' group likes to go to parties, "Halo at girls," play basketball and football and freestyle for fun. In Junior Kristina Damjanoska's group, they love to go to football and basketball games, shop until they drop, throw parties at Damjanoska's house and eat at Baker's Square.

People learn to adapt to the culture of cliques. What matters is how close they become and that they will always cherish and remember each other for eternity.

Elizabeth Ilievski & Sammy Grzesik



Taking a break from the party, Sophomores Pauline Katsouras, Kelly Kourtesis, Wheeler Sophomore Litsa Magins, Junior Tia Karagiandis and Lutheran School eighth grader Irene Karagiandis capture a Kodak moment. Dressing up in funky costumes brings out their true personality traits

Enjoying time together in the commons area after lunch, Freshmen DeUnique Gant, Whitney Mobley, Courtney Myricks, Morgan Bynum, Stephanie Simpson and Ashley Johnson pose for a picture. This group of girls is always inseparable because of their similar personalities and outgoing attitudes.



Half-Vietnamese, Junior Chris Adams (bottom right), visits Vietnam when he gets a chance. When visiting he gets an eerie feeling while being poked at by natives because he sticks out.



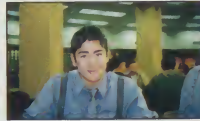
Born in Moraista, Macedonia, Senior Pere Dorsuleski has become accustomed to new traditions such as Fourth of July. He enjoys spending time with his other Macedonian friends at the clubhouse.



Enjoying the best of both worlds, Senior Anelida Aponte shares Puerto Rican and Spanish heritage. Last Spring Break she went to Spain to taste what her culture is like.



He is no Eddie Murphy in the movie "Coming to America," but Junior Kwame Asabere is the prince of an African tribe. He may not have Arsenia Hall at his side, but he has an abundance of friends.



Trends

Now and Then

As years began to pass, so did the latest trends in fashion.

Stepping into a new millennium has not changed the ever so popular platform shoes for females, though a new type of shoe has emerged for males and females. All around school, people wear unisex Doc Marten sandals and boots of all colors and styles. For the first time, males and females have joined to embrace this fashion. Another trend that males and females share is the popular gym shoes. Although shoes are fashionable,

jeans today seem to cover much of them.

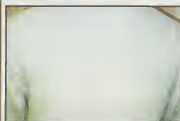
From bell-bottoms to roll to flares to extreme hipsters, jeans are staples in female wardrobes. For males bell-bottoms and tight rolled jeans have played their part in creating a shift toward backward and baggy jeans. Although males have gone through this denim decode, they some how ended up with the "faded jean look." On the other hand, both males and females have pretty much stuck to the tight shirt look.

However, "hoodies", designer shirts and sweaters too have played their part in the role of fashion. Initially, tank tops seemed to consume the world of fashion during the summer time, but this year they have seemed to extend into female's winter wardrobe. Some may think that fuzzy turtleneck sweaters are just for warmth, yet fashion has proven otherwise. Turtleneck sweaters never really seemed to go out of style, however different forms have emerged. Cowl neck sweaters became trendy among female consumers.

Over the years fashion has moved far beyond clothes into make-up and hair. In the 1960s and '70s females expressed their individuality by wearing less make-up. Today females use more make-up to express the same thing: individuality. Today's females wear many eye colors along with glittery facial make-up. Hair length has not really changed, but the colors in it have. Males and females used to stick with their natural color. Now chunks and highlights of various colors take over the locks.

As years pass trends seem to become more fashionable, yet forms of fashion just repeat as time goes on.

Elena Gonzalez



Funky Chunky

While some shoes are brown and some are black, four girls pose their feet in order to parade their chunky style of shoes. These high heels are one distinctive style of footwear that is solely popular among females.



Put Your Right Foot In

During lunchtime, four students take a break to show their shoes. Today's tennis shoes come in countless styles, colors and shapes and remain comfortable and popular.



The Doctor Is In

Males and females put feet forward to show off their Doc Marten shoes and boots. Although this brand of footwear ranges in price from \$100 to \$200, students are still eager to wear this style.



10 Lifestyles



Boys in the Hood
Sporting their hooded sweatshirts, Junior Jared Byczko, Freshman Kris Simonovski and Junior Joey Frasca hang out outside the lunchroom. "Hoodies" are a popular and comfortable style among both boys and girls.



Turtle Power!
Wearing the ever-so-popular turtlenecks, Juniors Diana Hughes and Brandon Waldrop smile for the camera. Available in sweaters and other types of material, turtlenecks are a definite trend for males and females alike.



Paid for the Fade

Jeans naturally fade, but these three gentlemen bought their jeans this way. Unlike many other fashions, the faded jean look is a style that originated in this generation and is not simply repeating an old look.



A Tight Look

Chatting between classes, Senior Amanda Burden, Junior Shawna Breitenstein and Freshman Sabrina Carlisle pause to look at some boys passing by. The girls wear tight shirts, which are a hot commodity for girls.



How Low Can You Go?

Many girls today like to wear low cut jeans that hang on the hips, formerly known as hip-huggers. Because the jeans start so low that no shirt really covers the top, various styles have come about to make the waistline of jeans unique. These styles include extended pockets, fashionable belts and fringed material.



Dare to Go Bare

Even throughout cooler weather, Sophomore Kimmy Verduzco still bares her shoulders by wearing a sleeveless tank top. This fashion has always been a popular summer look. In recent years it seems to be slipping into a year-round wardrobe choice.

Ins and Outs

Animal Print

Needy Hair

Chunky Belts

Head Forming

Visors

Fringed Hair

Tie Dye

Band Hair

Wallet Chains

Roller Skating

Guys dying their hair

Scars and Scarsily



Let's Get Ready to Hangout



On a Tuesday night at BW3 on Route 30, Junior Kwame Asabere and Seniors Chris Gabriel and Dove Strom enjoy their night out. The trio devours the 25-cent buffalo wings.

As you look around in Merrillville, Indiana, you notice there is not much to do. However, if you live here for a while, you will see it is who you hang out with, not where you hang out. In a town with one nightclub, one mall and a slew of restaurants, things tend to get old fast, but if you look at the neighboring towns, you will find out that there are more options.

Sophomore Heidi Hammond wouldn't know much about her class, considering she hangs out with only freshmen and juniors. Partying is a way of life for this mini-clone of Rachel Hammond. Senior Justin Johnson keeps up on his movie trivia by seeing movies at theatres such as Showplace, General Cinema and Sony. Do not factor out Johnson's cool pad. It is a popular hangout for all his friends. Jason Michelin, a sophomore, knows the way to Subway! Since Subway is nearby and convenient for Michelin and his friends, they visit it frequently and are even acquainted with the "sandwich artists!"

As history has shown before, the world around us is ever changing, but Merrillville will always stay the same. As the students grow and drift away, they always know where to return to get a bite to eat and hang out. From restaurants, to theaters, to people's houses, Merrillville will always be known for these hangout spots.

Tommy Grzesik

Snowboarding is becoming an increasingly popular winter activity, especially for Freshmen Daniel Burkus and Kris Simonovski and Sophomore Steve Burke. They can also be seen locally at the Pines in Valparaiso or on trips to Colorado.

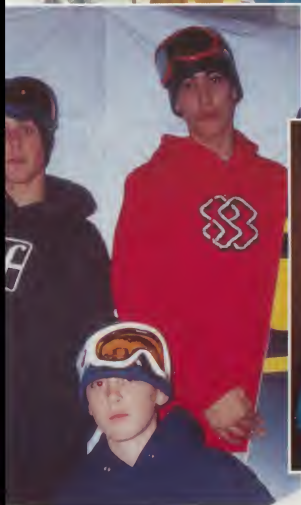


Steak 'n Shake

When the town shuts down, students still have one place to go. Steak 'n Shake offers a full menu to satisfy students' appetites 24 hours a day.



After finishing a really game of volleyball, Jason Montanez, a Junior at Monticello High School in Florida, and his friends Jared Byrnes and Eric Nolan take time to catch some rays. Fun in the sun is all part of a day at Deep River Water Park.



Hangouts

I like to go out to eat at different restaurants. I also like to hang out at my friends' houses.

-Senior Theresa Salacotto

I like hanging out at Bennigans and chillin' at people's houses.

-Junior Igor Ristevski

I like to spend my time at the mall with my friends. Hanging out at the movies is another thing I like to do.

-Freshman Kristy Polster





Folding clothes at Sears, Seniors Sarah Conquest and Flora Nuses work after school and on the weekends to earn money. Conquest and Nuses use their money to buy clothes or to go out.

The Real Life

Do you like where you work?

Students ask themselves that question every time they head to work. It seems today that the "real life" for teenagers is to juggle sports, activities, school and jobs. That is the way life seems for Junior Emily Mandich. In addition to working at Dance Stuff, Mandich is on the Swim Team and active in drama. Along with all that, Mandich still manages to do well in school. How does she do it?

"I split time between swimming and drama, and work on the weekends," says Mandich.

Although many people work at different places, most teenagers today work at the mall. Some people like their workplace, while others regret they even have a job! Whether you enjoy your job or not, it is always a luxury to have extra spending money that you could call your own.

Heather Phillippe, a working junior, enjoys her environment in the Pharmacy Department in the Merrillville Walgreens.

"It's a interesting job that pays decent money," said Phillippe.

On the other hand, how would you like to get paid for dodging paintballs?

"I love my job," said Junior David Rooda.

Rooda works at Blast Camp, a paintball playground where he is paid \$7 an hour plus tips. Rooda's job is to referee rambunctious people while they shoot each other with paintballs.

Top 10 Dream Jobs

1. Abercrombie
2. American Eagle
3. Hollister
4. Aeropostale
5. Deep River Waterpark
6. Spencer Gifts
7. Finish Line
8. Old Navy
9. Best Buy
10. Loews



Taking orders is only one of the many responsibilities that Senior Heather Huih does at Roma's Pizzeria. Huih also puts the orders in and waits on tables.

Brewing up a café latte, Freshman Jace Pitifer makes it a priority to meet every customer's need. Pitifer works after school and on the weekends at Gloria Jean's to earn some extra cash.



Straightening up the racks, Junior Julie Roames deals with "little" customers everyday at Kid's Foot Locker. Working there, Roames wears a referee uniform.

All the latest clothes are found at American Eagle. People enjoy working there for the discount on clothes and seeing all of their friends come in.



AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS



The Disney Store is a fun place to work because clerks get to play with all the toys. The Disney Store attracts many customers and little kids enjoy the friendly atmosphere.

Even though it is nice to have extra spending money, people habitually are not sure where it goes! Most people spend their checks on clothes or car payments.

"I spend my paycheck on clothes at Kohls," said Sara Kennedy.

When Sophomore Eleni Anton receives her paycheck from Deep River Water Park, she frequently visits the mall.

Both Kennedy and Anton gear their money toward new outfits to show off at school.

When Junior Melanie Williams picks up her paycheck, "half of it goes in the bank and the other half is spent on junk food," she explained.

Lauren Strom

Leading Hectic Lives!



Ready for Ruby's!

Juggling school, poms and a job is tough. For Senior Ronsha Pratt, it's never too big of a task. Pratt works at Ruby Tuesday as a hostess. "I don't stress myself over all the activities I'm in," said Pratt. Whether she is at work, at dance practice or doing homework, Pratt always has a job to do.

The On-The-Go Guy!

If you love tennis, want to do well in school and have a job life isn't easy. Junior Josh Diehl works at K-Mart on Route 30. How does Josh do it all? "I handle everything by working on the weekends only," he said. Diehl does different tasks at work such as bringing in the carts, stocking shelves and unloading trucks.





Express and Tommy are the only stores where Sophomore Lindsey Williams spends her money. Williams spends over \$500 on clothes each year.

"Trendy" is a middle name for Senior Lisette Flores. Flores spends on average of \$300 on her school wardrobe every year. She shops at Tommy and Liz Clairborne.



Junior Ashly Taylor likes to look good. Taylor spends \$380 to \$400 a year at Express and American Eagle.



Designs by Coogi, Express and Tommy are found in Senior Cathryn Presley's closet. Presley spends on average of \$500 to \$1,500 per school year.



Fashion is no obstacle for Freshman Marshena Kendrick. Kendricks can be seen wearing Express, Tommy and Bebe, which on average cost her between \$500 to \$600 every year.

Spending the Green for the Scene

Spending between \$1000 and \$1500 a year on school clothes, Junior Kristina Damjanoska finds fashion a necessity. Damjanoska shops at Express and one of her favorite stores in New York called H&M.



Nothing is "phatter" than the Phot Form for Senior John Upshaw, who also sports Ecco, Guess and Polo. Money is not a factor for this young man.



Eddie Bauer is a favorite of Sophomore Bernard Beard. Beard likes to spend \$400 to \$500 on Tommy and Eddie Bauer clothes.





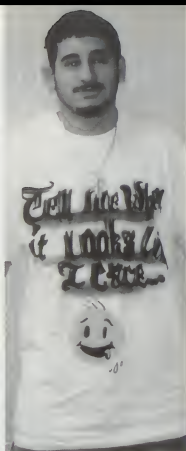
Like Phil, Karl Kani and Ecco are just a few of Freshman Stephanie Simpson's favorite designers. Simpson spends between \$350 and \$400 a year on her school clothes.



Showing off one of her favorite outfits from Express, Senior Nicole Birmingham has no lack of fashion sense. Birmingham spends \$500 to \$600 at the Gap, Express and Polo outlets.



The classic hooded sweatshirt and T-shirt never seem to go out of style. Junior Josefina Bridges displays this trend, along with her favorite brands Ecco, Aéro and Adidas. She spends \$150.



Senior Ricky Augusto spends \$300 on his school clothes every year. Augusto buys his favorite designers: Polo, Tommy, Dada and Champion.

Wearing one of his favorite shirts from Aeropostale is Senior Casby Williams, who spends over \$500 on school clothes every year. He also likes to spend his money on Polo, Ecco, Eynce and Fubu.

"Your total is . . ." This is usually what students hear when they are doing back to school shopping. How much do students really spend? Senior Cathryn Presley said that she spends about \$500 to \$600 on school clothes when school starts. When students are ready to go school shopping, they consider the trendiest things at the time. "My grandma always calls when we get ready to leave," says Freshman Stephanie Simpson. "She always wants to give us money!" Clothes in today's age range from Abercrombie to Coogi, which is extremely pricey, to simple things like Levi's, which are not cheap either. The average amount spent on school clothes is about \$490 per student. How much do you spend on clothes?

Shakeila Clark

Express, Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein and American Eagle are what Senior Mirjana Trkula is buying. Trkula spends an average of \$500 to \$600 a year.

For Senior Jeff Medding, fashion is not an issue. Medding only wears sports shirts and Silver Tab, but still manages to spend over \$150 on school clothes.





"Yes, I feel as if all relationships are worth it, if you find the right person."

Senior Wes Dady



"No its more fun without one. You can party more and not be tied down."

Senior Riley Larimore



"Yes, it feels so good when you are in the relationship. You always have someone to turn to and you always have someone to bring you up."

Senior Sarah Certa



"It is never gonna make it till the end with the way girl's get jealous if you were to hug another girl."

Senior Reggie Halt



"Sometimes, because you don't have to worry about finding something to do on the weekends."

Junior Peter Brasovan

Team Players

Standing strong, Seniors Allen Babowsky and Kelly Palster meet often after their classes. Although basketball and cheerleading practices take up a lot of their time, they still manage to find time for each other.



Never Ending Gaze

What a coincidence that Seniors Annie Stupic and Steve Gill manage to be out of class at the same time. This couple has been together since their freshmen year.



High School Relationships

Many students question the value of high school relationships. Girls and guys alike consider a number of factors before committing to a long-term relationship. They understand they both must be loyal, sincere, trustworthy and faithful.

In Senior Theresa Sciaccatta's opinion, "If you find the right person and it's someone you have fun with and share good times, there's no reason you shouldn't be in one."

Do teenagers really know what they want from one another?

"High school is a time to have fun and experience going out with a variety of people until one finds his or her type," explained Senior Justin Curtis.

Relationships can also put a lot of stress on students.

"There have been many times where I just wept a flood because I got in a fight with my boyfriend, so I think relationships could be a positive experience or a negative one, depending upon the qualities they share," Senior Amanda Burden said.

Relationships in high school are a time for joy, sadness, laughter and heartaches. These relationships help students grow, thrive and learn new things. With each dazzling encounter, students can add another pleasant thought to their memories.

Are they worth it?

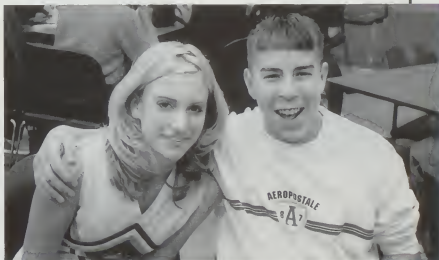


A Supporting Fan Supporting the Relationship

Seniors Luke Nienhaus and Tina Caburn show how much they care for one another. Nienhaus always finds time for his biggest fan, even though soccer plays a big role in his life.

Lunch Time

Couples often plan to meet each other in the cafeteria. Enjoying their lunch together, Freshman Kristi Pawlawski and Junior Jan Gutierrez also rendezvous at various places during the course of the school day.





Junior Amanda Simpson

"I had a crush on David Coughlin in second grade. We were friends and I just started to like him."



Junior Katie O'Brien

"I had a crush on Chris Nahlík because we were very close friends."



Senior Ariel Dennie

"Eugene Allen was my first crush in sixth grade because of his sweet personality and good looks."

First Crushes

Do you remember your first crush? Looking back might be a pretty amusing thought.

What made you fall for that person? Maybe it was his or her look's charm or personality. Many had a new crush every week, while others had a secret crush on one special someone.

Junior Michelle Phillips had a crush on fellow classmate Steven Marcus in fourth grade.

"I liked him because he was so little and cute," said Phillips.

Throughout elementary school, Junior Sabrina Hennessy had a crush on Junior Ryan Bishop.

"I liked him because he was always so sweet to me," said Hennessy.

While some crushes had a good ending, others were less fortunate. Many were so terrified to let their crushes know that they had butterflies in their stomachs when they saw them.

Senior Shevrie Haynes' heart set on Senior Eugene Allen in 11th grade.

"I didn't want him to know that I liked him, but our friend hooked us up," said Haynes.

Kara Lux



Juniors Jacob East and Yvonne Martinez

"I had a crush on Yvonne Martinez throughout elementary school. I thought she was very cute and had a sweet personality."

"I didn't want him to know that I liked him, but our friend hooked us up."

Shevrie
Haynes
Senior



**Juniors Jenny Heidler
and Tony Stofko**

"Jenny Heidler was my first crush in elementary school because she was sweet to me."

**Seniors Crystal Catania
and Jon Kelsey**

"My first crush was Crystal Catania because she always looked cute."



Juniors Tara Murphy and Chris Garza

"I had a crush on Chris Garza for a long time. There is just something about him."

Friends At Lunch

Friends often meet in the cafeteria to eat and gossip about everyday activities. This group of friends spend time together during and away from school.

Big Little Brother

The smiles upon Junior Brad Woodward and Freshman Bart Woodward show their personalities. The two brothers like to spend time hanging out and playing football together.



Double Trouble

This unique set of twins, Sophomores Tara and Justin Stanley, take time from their dates to look into the camera's lens. These two portied of the Family Career and Community Leaders of America Valentine's Dance.



Merrillville High School is a place where students meet their best friends and where siblings grow to either to like or hate each other.

"There are good and bad things about being a twin," Senior Sammy Grzesek said. "My twin sister Tammy and I always argue and never decide on things, but you'll always have someone to talk to."

Having a big brother or sister in the school makes younger siblings feel more secure.

"The most important quality that I share with my brother (Freshman Bart) is our similar personalities. Making fun of people is fun for us," Junior Brad Woodward said.

During freshman year students begin to meet new people and make new friends. Friendships are formed in sports and after-school activities. Being involved in the same activities allows friends to spend a lot of time together.

"I like to play cards with my friends during the week nights," Senior Jason Giordano said.

"In high school is when I met my best friends. That's when you learn who you can really trust and have fun with," Senior Brian Zdych said.

"In middle school we all became close," explained Senior Dave Strom, "when we began our cool wrestling organization."

Kelly Palster

Through And THIN THICK



The M&M's

One thing Senior Mike Rodriguez and Sophomore Michelle Rodriguez know how to do is look out for one another. They take time out of their busy schedules to give each other a moment of support.



MHS Fast Facts

- 209 sets of siblings
- 18 sets of twins
- 2 sets of married teachers

The Newell Duo

There's double trouble when these two sisters, Senior Lisa Newell and Sophomore Coral Newell, walk on the court. This pair of sisters contributed to many team victories this season.



The Mosley Brothers

As they sift through pictures, Senior Gerald Mosley and Sophomore Brandon Mosley discuss which photographs they want to buy. These brothers converse often in the hallway.

It Takes Two

Nothing intimidates this team of sisters. Seniors Sammy and Tommy Grzesik walk the walk down the halls of MHS.

Top 10 Ways to Relax During Finals

1 "Eat a lot of junk food."

Sophomore Julie Collins

2 "Get some medication."

Sophomore Amber Kaste

3 "Work out at the gym."

Junior Trevor Hodges

4 "Play hockey." Freshman Joe Sobek

5 "Hang out with your friends."

Freshman Bryan Popa

6 "Play sports, like tennis."

Freshman Katie Coleman

7 "Read a book." Sophomore Steve Vanek

8 "Relax, take a bath, light aroma candles
and listen to soft music."

Junior Chauntesse Williams

9 "Get a lot of rest, eat a nice meal, watch
a good movie and talk on the phone."

Freshman Erica Brock

and Junior Tara Turner

10 "Don't think about it too much."

Junior Chris Harris

Spending some quality time with her boyfriend helps
Sophomore Jasmine Dayon get things off her mind. A
good laugh with friends also helps her.



Fluttering across the floor practicing ballet helps Senior Lisa Fralinger to relieve her stress. Fralinger teaches ballet, tumbling, tap and Sunday school. She also works as an usher at the Star Plaza Theatre.

Producing plays throughout the year does not give drama teacher, director and adviser Mrs. Beverley Seaver time to relax. So when she can, she sleeps to take the burden off her shoulders.





Studying law and fly fishing, Mr. James Stamper goes to the library to relieve his stress. Mr. Stamper was a student teacher for Mr. Zac Wells.

Dealing with Everyday Stress



Listening to music is Sophomore Heather Casady's way of relieving stress. Maintaining a high grade point average and participating in events like beauty pageants are just some of the stressful things in Casady's life.

Sleeping, eating, laughing, talking, practicing yoga, dancing, reading and exercising. People will do almost anything to relieve the stress of everyday life. High school is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, so students try to cram as much as they can into this four-year slot. The faculty deals with working, grading papers, coaching sports, supporting themselves and possibly supporting a family. Students deal with homework, peer pressure, sports, jobs, finals, term papers and also college decisions! Everyone has to deal with daily pressures and deadlines in the real world. And everyone has unique ways of relieving tension.

Stress differs from person to person. Teachers may not always have more stress than students, and students may not always have more stress than teachers.

Watching students in a study hall all day is not an easy job. To relieve her stress, study hall aide Ms. Melissa Roessing said, "I listen to soft music because it soothes my soul."

Being a student is not an easy job either. To relieve his stress, Junior Shane Klar said, "I like chillin' with my girlfriend and skating with [Freshman] Bryon Papa, [Freshman] Brian Kiszka and [Sophomore] Tommy Vechey."

Kristina Rosalie Milicevic

Having a blast in sunny San Diego, California, Seniors Dana Kraska and Tamara Bowen follow a tour guide through the wondrous caves. Exploring these amazing landscapes was only part of the fun throughout their vacation.



Enjoying the weather, Seniors Marissa Vawter, Melissa Sanchez, Megan Brown, Chia Chiang and Freshman Rosalinda Sanchez take a dip in the water at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Taking a moment to catch their breath, Seniors Riley Larimore and Albert Escobedo climb Superstition Mountain in Mesa, Arizona. At an elevation of 8,000 feet, it took Larimore and Escobedo 4 hours to climb the mountain trails.

2000

Acting goofy, Junior Julie Trimble, Seniors Kate Czubik, Tina Coburn, Mandy Elser, Junior Brandon Waldrop, Seniors Katie Floyd, Kris Dabu, Junior Trevy Ramos, Senior Nilaja Neely and Sophomore Jennifer Mustafa show how much fun they had in Branson, Missouri, with the choir. Members of the choir take a different trip every year to perform small shows at banquets and other festivities.



Spring Break

Spring Break in Merrillville, Indiana, is like nothing else. Spring break is all about relaxing, hanging out with friends and, most importantly, getting a week off school!

Many students spend their week off going to see the latest movies and going out to eat. "Spring break was a time that I caught up on my sleep," Junior Diana Hughes said.

But what do you do after you run out of things to do in Merrillville? Many students travel to different places for the week. It doesn't matter if students are traveling with friends, family or by themselves, they still manage to have a great time on their vacations.

Since the weather is usually cool during Spring Break, students don't have to look far for a reason to get away. During the week of Spring Break, students traveled from coast to coast.

While many students stay home for Spring Break, students often travel to warm places where they lay in the sun all day long.

Senior Riley Larimore, who went to Tucson, Arizona, said, "It was good to get away to nice weather and see hot girls with tans."

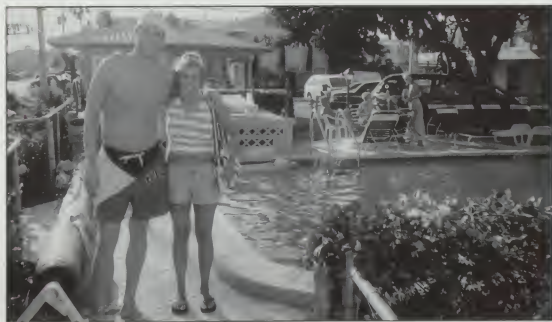
Senior Amanda Burden went to Florida to get a great tan. "It was something new and exciting, and plus I got to lay on the beach all day," she said.

During Spring Break 2002, the Merrillville Vocal Teens traveled to Branson, Missouri, where they performed at The Legend and The Presley Theatre.

"It was a good bonding experience, and we had a blast performing," said Senior Katie Floyd.

Not only did the members perform two times a day, they also had some time off to have fun in the sun. Some of the members went horseback riding and shopping. Others just relaxed.

Juniors Christine Aloia and Kathleen Szot, who accompanied the Choir to Branson, agreed that "it was fun to hang out with friends and get away from Merrillville."



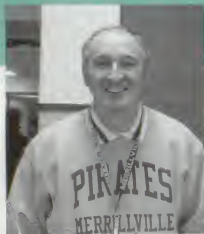
Dressed and ready to go, Senior Erin Margan and a family friend hang out by the pool at Tropical Breeze Hotel in Clearwater, Florida. Margan had tans of fun vacationing with her family.

With the combination of tanning and having fun, Senior Amanda Burden enjoys her boat ride in Daytona Beach, Florida. Hitting the beach and seeing new faces were what Burden liked best about Daytona.



A little boy flips his cup in the air while waiting for the second load of buses to arrive. Meanwhile, other students board the first load of buses after school. Buses are just one of the ways students get to and from school.

This lightning blue pick-up truck is the prized possession of Senior David Pritt. In cold weather, he always waits for his car to heat up before he pulls out of the parking lot.



"I think that the majority of the students in the parking lot drive responsibly."

Mr. Larry Juzewski
Security Director



"I think that it is better if students drive to school because they can go at their own pace in the morning instead of waiting for the bus or their parents."

Senior Josh Harvath



"I don't mind students driving, walking or having their parents drive them to school, but if they do drive, they shouldn't drive like a bunch of savages!"

Mr. Ryan Cartwright
Art Teacher

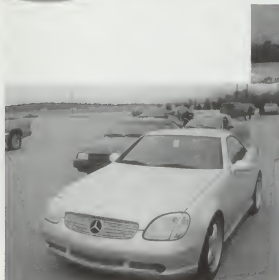


"By walking to school, Mr. Floyd's classroom is closer to my house than if I were to drive and park in the parking lot."

Senior Josh Everett



STREET SMARTS



This 2001 silver Mercedes Benz is the prized possession of Junior Ryon Zurek. Here he is shown driving around in his car after school.



Exiting the parking lot, Senior Sarino Wilkerson takes two friends home. Carpooling is one of the efficient ways that they choose to get to school.



Not only does the outside look good, but inside Senior Jimmy Koromacowski's 2002 Mercedes SUV is loaded with three televisions and a Playstation 2. Many students find it easy to envy Jimmy.

Realtors say location is key when selling properties. Location also plays a big part in the early morning life of a high school student.

Senior Josh Everett leaves his house and walks to school two minutes before the warning bell rings. If Senior Joseph Mustafa leaves his house on the north end of Crown Point at 7:28 a.m. and drives the speed limit, he would be considered tardy!

Many students take the bus, drive or walk to school. Security Director Larry Juzwicki said "approximately 480 students drive to school." Administrators frequently see cars whizzing into the parking lot two minutes before the warning bell rings. This usually causes the tardy count to increase.

On average, MHS students do not have a long drive in the morning.

Junior Taneshia Amey wishes she could be among the students who drive. She said the bus is "boring and underclassmen act immature."

Everyday after school 60 buses arrive in 3 waves of 20. On the buses about 10 to 50 students eagerly wait to arrive at their destinations.

Students who have the advantage of living close to school just walk. Approximately ten students walk to school, including Everett.

No matter how they get to school, it is imperative that everyone is on time!

Elizabeth Ilevski



Students must be careful in the parking lot after school. Coming close to a collision, Seniors Norman Sherwood and Billy Jones come to a screeching halt.



The Prom Essentials



Spritzing on a little cologne is sure to get Senior Mandis Olandezos's date a little closer to him! Olandezos never leaves his house on prom night without smelling great



Picking out the perfect tux is an essential for prom. Juniors Igor Rsteovski and Eric Morris are shown here checking themselves out. They knew they had the 'right stuff' on prom night!



Junior Samantha Sullivan patiently waits for the nail technician to do her nails. Getting her nails done is just one of the priorities that Sullivan has for prom.



Must Haves

Date
Transportation
Tuxedo
Cologne
Money
Hair Appointment
Stunning Dress
Dinner Reservations
Nail Appointment
Jewelry
Flowers

The absolute essential for Senior Santino Cordilla is fixing his hair. Cordilla spends approximately five minutes doing his hair every day



Sophomore Jacquene Barsch patiently waits while her hairdresser arranges her hair in twists for the prom. Her boyfriend, Senior David Pritt, will be her escort on this special night.





Being best friends since sixth grade, Senior Jayne Haran always finds time to lend a helping hand to zip up Senior Kristyn Vallancourt right before the prom. Many girls find prom a hassle. These two take time to laugh off all their stresses



Junior Jamie Sweeney gazes into the camera as her hair is being pinned up in tiny curls. After her appointment at the hair salon, Sweeney will be heading off to get her make-up done. Her date to this year's prom will be Junior Igor Risteviski.

Hour By Hour



Waking up

Waking up is just one tiny step for Senior Nick Fisher, before his fun-filled day begins. Unfortunately, Fisher has to go to school until 11 a.m. with prom on his mind all day!



Rise & Shine

Waking up from her slumber, Senior Jennifer Jansen knows she has a big day.



11 a.m.

Since Merrillville had a half day on Friday, Nick is eager to get in his SUV and go home.



1 p.m.

Sophomore Jennifer Mustafa lends a helping hand to her friend Jennifer by manicuring her nails.



2 p.m.

Known far for his bushy hair around school, Nick decides to get a haircut for the big day.



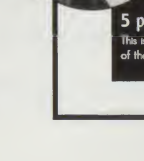
3 p.m.

After having her nails manicured, Jennifer heads off to have her hair done.



4 p.m.

This is one of the last things Nick has to do before going to pick up his date. He puts the finishing touches on his tuxedo.



5 p.m.

This is the finishing product of their hectic day.





1. Mr. Steve Nichols, one of Merrillville's new teachers, takes time out to relax and take a phone call. 2. Senior Nathan Walker folds his latest accomplishment in Graphic Arts class. 3. Senior Cynthia Hunke concentrates on leading the band. She's been Drum Major for two years. 4. Setting up the camera. Juniors Daniel Lopez and Timothy Halley start to work on their project. 5. Freshman Stephanie Simpson glances at the camera after dropping off her lunch tray. 6. Seniors John Stojanovski and Matt Jagiela share a laugh over lunch. 7. Cheering on the Pirates, Freshmen Ashley Janovick and Ashley Hinchin watch the team score another point.

A moment frozen in time. Once every year you wake up early to start your day. You make sure your hair is done up just right. Your smile sparkles and your make-up is perfect. You grab the order form and check and hurry off to school.

At school everyone is dressed their best. Girls sit in class fixing their make-up and combing their hair until it shines. Students wait impatiently, glancing at the clock, waiting for their turn. It's time. Students make last minute adjustments to make-up, hair and clothes.

You hand the man your check and order form. More waiting in another line. Finally, it's your turn. You sit down in front of the camera and give them your best smile as the camera flashes. It's over, and in that one second, the result of all that time, primping, perfection is . . . your school photo.

**MADE TO PERFECTION.
TAKEN IN A SECOND.
BETTER THAN YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE PHOTO.**

SENIORS

Ricky Agosto
Taiwan Alford
Tiffany Alleman
Tiffany Allen
Tony Allison



Matthew S. Aloia
Nicole Alston
Gabriela Alvarez
Michael Amundsen
Esperanza Anaya



Anelda Aponte
Sarah Argenta
Samantha Argue
Kristina Artibey
Amber Lee Ashe



James Ashe
Emilee Ashley
Vanessa Assibey-Mensah
Sarita Ayala
Jamia Bailey



Robert Triston Banks
Larin Ann Borman
Kathy Barnes
Megan Lynn Barry
David Bartos



Jose Benavente
Joshua M. Berk
Jason Berry
Lisa Marie Bewley
Nicole Birmingham



SENIORS



Matthew Bishop
Allen Bobowsky
La Donna Boulreux
Tamara Bowen
Tiffany Brosch



Matthew Brown
Megan Brown
Dean Brummet
Alexander Buck
Mike Budde



Michael Bunnell
Amanda Burden
Melissa Burress
Michelle Busse
Robert Joseph Campbell



Scott Cannon
Vicky Cantrell
Lashawn Carter
Rachel L. Caruthers
Carlos Casanova



Sarah Certa
Chia Chiang
Jim Cioni
Shakella Clark
Kimberly Yvonne Clemons



Brittany Cobb
Kristina Coburn
Crystal Coleman
Ken Coleman
Matthew R. Collins

SENIORS

SeAndrea Collins
Javan Comer
Sarah Conquest
Santino Cordila
Charity Lynn Cornelius



Ryan Craft
Clarice Craig
Shanell D. Crittenden
Daren Cudjoe
Matthew Cunningham



Justin Curtis
Katherine Rachel Czubik
Lara Dabis
Kristofer James Dabu
Nicholas John Dallas



Monique Darden
Haatal Dave
Ronald Earl Davidson III
Malisa Davis
Tiffany LaShawn Davis



Zachary Davis
Danessa Ann DeLaCruz
Ariel Dennie
Ken Dettlerline
Do'neee Danielle Deyarmin



Randolph J. Dillon
Thomas Dobes
Anna Marie Doko
Pere Dorsuleski
Wesley Doty



SENIORS



William M. Dawns
Chris Drapeau
Dathan Echols
Elizabeth Elder
Lunetta Ann Ellison



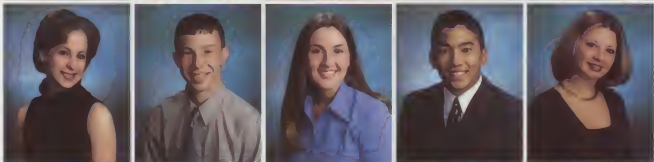
Amanda Marie Elser
Monique Emmons
Michael Escobedo
Daniel G. Estes
Jashua Jan Everett



Nicholas Fisher
Jennifer Fizer
Kristina Leigh Fleck
Oswaldo Flores
Veronica Flores



Katie Ja Floyd
Lisa Ann Fralinger
Ginger Ja Francis
Kelli Lyn Fravel
Casey Frey



Julia Frey
Ken Frey
Megan Star Furlic
Christopher Andrew Gabriel
Tiffany Gallegas



Jennifer Garcia
Julia Angel Garcia
Nancy Garcia
Natasha Ivelisse Garcia
Kenita Garner

SENIORS

Alkia Gavin
Laura Gastring
Stephen Marcus Gill
Joy Ashley Gilmore
Alan Gregory Gima



Jason Giordano
Zlatica Gjarski
Karina Gomez
Oscar Gomez
Elena Maria Gonzalez



Jessica Renee Gonzalez
Stephanie Gonzalez
Keith Gough
Aaron Green
Candace A. Greenleaf



Tawana Lejai Greer
Scott Gregory
Karen Lynn Gresh
Renee Nell Griggs
Brittany Grimmer



Samantha Marie Grzesk
Tamara Marie Grzesk
Adam Benjamin Guajardo
Tim Gust
Jeffrey Holaschak



Janice Hallenbeck
Rachel Lee Hammond
Marlon James Hanley
Jonathan Harris
Nathan Harris



SENIORS



Jashua Edward Harvath
Corey Hawkins
Chaya Marie Hayes
Shervie Loniece Haynes
Elizabeth Henderson



Nicole Herrera
Jacquelyn Marie Highsmith
Alexandria Hodges
Andrew Holmes
Reginald Holt



Lauren Jenae Homola
Jayne Elizabeth Horan
Heather Hush
Robert Hush
Cynthia Hunke



David Frank Husek II
Elizabeth Ilievski
Phillip Ingram
Mirka Ivanovic
Kristine Jackam



Jennifer Jackowski
Arthur Jackson
Franklin Jackson
Ashlie Lashawna Jacobs
Matthew David Jagiela



Jennifer R. Jansen
Jonathan Michael Jasinski
Justin Johnson
Nicole Marie Jolly
Erika Jones

SENIORS

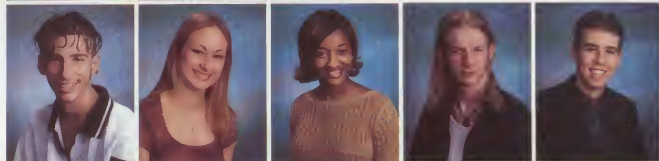
Jeffrey Julkes Jr.
Joseph T. Jurisa
Candace Kapranos
Jimmy Karamacski
Amy Kaste



Stacey Kavios
Crystal Kedziora
Jonathan Kelsey
Tyannah King
Jamie Michelle Kirby



Nicholas Klebs
Jamisyn Kloth
Martina Consula Knight
Philip Knotts
Christopher M. Kars



Mark A. Kovcs
Dana Marie Kraska
Jillian Ashley Kuck
Matthew Lancaster
Riley Larimore



Jake Lashenik
Jane-Hwei Lee
Christopher Alan Lesniak
Julie Anne Lesniak
Kevin Clell Lewis



Lanikka Lewis
Zerubbabel Lewis
Daniel Lexsa
Ashley Nicole Liddell
Valerie Lipp



SENIORS



Joe Llano
Lisa Marie Lapez
Leandro Lucata
Mitchell Lynn
Amanda Maldonado



Marc Maple
Joseph Marlow
Morgan Ashley Marovich
Markeyta Martin
Melissa Matsey



Meghan A. Mauman
Jennifer McCann
Bonita McCorley
Edward McCollum Jr.
Joe McKnight



Michael McLaughlin
Sophia McLeod
Anthony McLucas
Maegan McPhee
Brandon McVade



Danielle Meadows
Jeff Meding
Brandon Meekin
Jessica Menchaca
Melissa A. Mihal



Adam Milan Milicevic
Kara Jean Miller
Jacob Minnick
Alexander Mirin
Staci Ann Misialek

SENIORS

Danielle Marie Malchan
Ryan Moore
Christopher B. Morgan
Erin Elizabeth Morgan
Erik Morris



Eric Morrone
Gerald Mosley Jr.
John Mosley
Joseph Flanagan Mustafa
Mariana Naglosky



Christopher Joseph Nahlik
Jaclyn Naujokas
Nilaja Neely
David Irvin Neville III
Lisa Marie Newell



Della Neylon
Luke C. Nienhaus
Theresa Paige Nixon
Flora Nuses
Lauren Thresa Nuzzo



Michael O'Reilly
Olivia Obregon
Manolis Olandezos
Craig Olis
Nate Osborne



Amanda Pagel
Krystal Palacios
Taylor Palmateer
Amanda Panning
Sarah Ann Papp



SENIORS



Jermell Parrish
Phil Patterson
Clifford Edward Payo
Zachary T. Pearman
Lauren Pena



Claudia Patricia Perez
David C. Perry
Kim Perry
Tim Perry
Veronica L. Phelps



Camella Pickett
Jason Pierce
Amanda Pivovarnik
Aimee M. Plukas
Kelly M. Polster



Claude Powers III
Ronisha Eyana Pratt
Seneca Price
David L. Pritt
Gregory Pucher



Lindsay Purnea
Diana Elaine Quintanilla
Danielle Marie Ragon
Tiaarra Danielle Ragulen
April Ramirez



Timothy Kyle Randolph
Joshua Reberg
Justin William Reed
Caleen Marie Ragan
Heather Lynn Renehan

SENIORS

Felecia Renner
Amy Reyna
Amanda Ricchio
Melissa Richards
Robert C. Richards



James Thomas Riddle
Simon Ristevski
Samantha Rooden
Nick Roberts
Amy Robertson



Michael John Rodriguez
Sandra Rodriguez
Felix Roman
Ryan Romeo
Lisa Marie Ross



Maya Rothstein
Carey Ruckman
Emrielle J. Rumph
Jennifer A. Ruschak
Melissa E. Russell



Amanda Beth Rysiewicz
Carla Renee Sabo
Kevin Thomas Sager
Kelly Samson
Melissa Sanchez



Katrese Susan Sawyer
Shannon Nicole Schafer
Krystle Marie Schollens
Theresa Sciaccotta
Brandon W. Scott



SENIORS



Kristen E. Scott
Michael Paul Sczurko
Joshua Seabrook
Julie Elizabeth Seagraves
Anthony C. Seay

Sharon Marie Sepulveda
Kyle Shea
Norman R. Sherwood
Stephen Sienicki
Jennifer Michelle Sierra

Mario Lee Sims
Keith Smiley
Aleeza Avi Smith
Christan Smith
Nino Smith

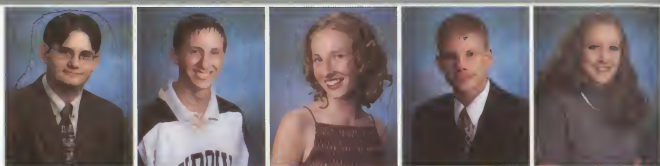
Edward Anthony Soltys III
Thomas Savich
Anthony Jon Sparger
Meredith Sperling
Mark Philip Spurlack

Nikola Sribinaski
Sarah Anne Stackert
Josh Stephens
Melissa Leigh Stewart
Jovan Stojanovski

Delaun Stokes
Timothy M. Stoner
David Charles Strom
Ann Marie Stupic
Chris Sullivan

SENIORS

Steve Summers Jr.
Andrew Swierc
Margaret Szczerba
Philip N. Tanis
Megan Ternes



Jon Thien
Joseph Thomas
Kaleena Thomas
ShaTonn Thompson
Ashley Renee Tipton



Andre K. Taney
Mirjana Trkula
Genevieve Tucker
Nick Ullmann
Ivan Ursery



Kristyn Vaillancourt
Noel Valle
Kelly Jo VanDerWoude
Melissa M. Vargas
Robert Jeffrey Vargo



Lisa Vartanoff
Ashley Elizabeth Vasatis
Marissa M. Vawter
Amanda Marie Verdeyen
Erika Villarreal



Jayson L. Villars
Cindy Ann Wahlman
Nathan Walker
Derek Wampler
Leah Weatherington





Tiffany N. Wesley
Ray William Wilbanks
Sarina Nicole Wilkerson
Brandon Williams
Bryon Williams

Casby Williams III
Jason Thomas Williams
Kevin Williams
Salena Williams
Amy Ann-Marie Wilson

Timothy A. Wirtz
Brandon A. Wize
Chris Wisner
Erin Wolfe
Michelle Lauren Wood

Stephanie Wusk
Brian Jonathan Yack
LaDonna M. York

SENIORS NOT PICTURED

Maurice Aaron
Hasan Abdul Hafiz
Erica Monique Adams
Syed Adil Aftab
Joshua Agne
Eugene Allen Jr.
David J. Brawn
Erica L. Brawn
Jerry L. Brunn
Jonathan J. Budz
Nora Bui
Raymond Busch
Jason G. Camisa
Taylor Cannady
Joshua Cassoday
William Cassoday
Krystal Catania
Generald Collins
Justin Creech
Gustava Del Real
Damien Dillbone
Bianca Dillon
Leah L. Dixon
Nedeljka Djordjevic
Aaron Doeing
Rickie Donaldson
James Dukanev
Terence Eckrich
Albert Escobedo

Michael A. Francis
Jason J. Gaffney
Alan Gavin
Colt Gray
Julian Genter
Sharon Glaze
Sandra Halbe
Juan Hall
Corey Hawkins
Christopher Hebert
Antaine Higgins
Stacey Hooks

Shaun Ortiz
Shannon Orton
Myle A. Palomo
Cathryn Presley
David Price
Gregory Refner
Joseph Reyna
Brenton Robinson
Rebecca Robinson
Athenas Rousis
Angelica Saraceno
Diana Sawyer
Goran Seat
Samantha Schocaraff
Lydia Smith
Chad Snyder
Brandon Strange
Jarmaine Strickland
Gabrielle Sunling
Robert Tafaya
Jose Trujillo
Sarah Turner
Evelyn Tyrkias
John Upshaw
Matthew Valant
Danny Vechey
Jessica Velez
Gregory Winn
Teresa Waynarski

Craig Zaremba
Jennifer Lynn Zark

Brian Edward Zdych
Tchukwu Ibekie

Hasan Abdul-Halaz - Syed Aftab - Decathlon Team 12, Key Club Officer 12, Newspaper 10
Josh Agne - Autoshop 11, Band 9, 10, 11, Football 9, Wrestling 9
Ricky Agosto - Revue 12, Teacher's Aide 12
Taiwan Alford - Band 9, 10, 11, Office Aide 9
Tiffany Alleman - HERO 12, Student Government 10, Basketball Homecoming Court 12, Football Homecoming Queen 12
Eugene Allen Jr. - Football 9, 10, 11
Tiffany Linette Allen - Band 9, 10, 11, Basketball 9, 10, Track 9, 10
Tony Allison - Baseball 9, 10, 11, Football 9, Jazz Impressions 10, 12, Orchestra 9, 10, 11, Revue 12, Wrestling 9, 10, 11
Matthew S. Aloia - Golf 9, 10, 11, 12, Golf Captain 11, 12, Peer Mediator 12, Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12, Teacher's Aide 12
Nicole Alston - Cross Country 11, Cross Country Captain 11, Office Aide 11, Peer Tutor 11, ROTC 9, Teacher's Aide 9, 10
Gabriela Alvarez - Art Club 9, Environmental Club 9, 10, Inspirational Choir 9, Key Club 9, 10, Spanish Club 9, 10, 11
Michael Amundsen - Autoshop 12, Wrestling 10
Esperanza M. Anya - Band 9, NHS 11, 12, Peer Tutor 12, Soccer 9, Teacher's Aide 12
Anelida Aponte - Basketball 9, 10, Volleyball 9, 10, 11, 12, Volleyball Captain 12
Sarah Argento - Basketball Homecoming Court 9, Basketball Homecoming Princess 9, Teacher's Aide 12, Volleyball 9
Samantha Argue - Choir 9, 10, 11, 12, Diving 9, Drama Club 9, Show Choir 11, 12, Spring Play 10, 12, Velebrates 10, Vocal Teens 12
Amber Lee Ashe - German Club 12, NHS 11, 12, Peer Tutor 11, 12
James Ashe
Emilee Irene Ashley - Choir 10, SADD 12
Vanessa Assberry-Mensch - Creative Writing Club 12, French Club 9, 10, 11, 12, Key Club 9, Newspaper 12, Office Aide 12, Peer Tutor 12
Santia Ayala - Inspirational Choir 9, Key Club 9, Spanish Club 10, 11
Janita Bailey - Business Professionals of America 11, Choir 9, 10, 11, Drama Club 9, 10, Math Club, NHS 11, Peer Tutor 10, 11, Source Club, Teacher's Aide 9, 10, 11
Robert Brian Banks - Creative Writing Club 9, 10, 11, 12, Creative Writing Club Officer 11, Drama Club 11, 12, Orchestra 9, 10, 11, 12, Spring Play 11
Leah Ann Barman - HERO 12, Teacher's Aide 11, 12
Kathy Barnes - Teacher's Aide 12
Megan Lynn Barry - HERO 12, Key Club 9
David Barrios
Jose Benavente - Swimming 9, 10, 11, 12
Joshua M. Berk - Football 9, 10, 11, Football Captain 9, Student Advisory Committee 9, 10, 11, 12, Super Bowl 9, 10, 11, Teacher's Aide 10, Wrestling 10
Jason Berry - Building Trades 11, 12
Lisa Marie Bewley - HERO 12
Nicole Birmingham - Choir 9, 10, 11, 12, Drama Club 10, 11, 12, Fall Play 11, 12, Natural Helpers 10, Peer Tutor 12, Revue 10, 11, 12, Show Choir 11, 12, Spring Play 10, 11, 12, Student Advisory Committee 9, 10, 11, 12, Teachers 11, 12, Velebrates 10, Vocal Teens 11, 12
Matt Bishop
Allen Bobawsky - Band 9, 10, Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12, Basketball Captain 12, Yearbook 12, Quill & Scroll 12, Quill & Scroll Officer 12
LaDonna Bouice - Class Officer 10, 11, 12, Dance Team 9, 10, 11, 12, Dance Team Captain 12, FEAT 12, NHS 11, 12, Peer Tutor 12, Revue 12, Spring Play 12, Teacher's Aide 12
Tiffany Broach
David Brown - Basketball 9, 10, 11
Matthew Brown - HERO 9, 11

Megan Brown - Creative Writing Club 9, 10, 11, 12, Creative Writing Club Officer 11, Decathlon Team 12, Newspaper 9, 10, 11, 12, Quill & Scroll 11, 12, Academic Super Bowl 9, 10, 11, 12, Yearbook 11, 12, Yearbook Co-Editor 12, Yearbook Section Editor 11
Dean Brummett - Autoshop 12, Football 9
Alexander Buck - Key Club 12, Student Government 12, Swimming 12, Track 12
Jerry Brun - Band 9, 10, 11, 12
Jonathan Butz - Autoshop 12, Football 9, 10, 11, 12, Office Aide 12, Track 11, 12
Nam Anhdue Bui
Michael Bunnell - Autoshop 11, Football 9, 10, 11, 12, Key Club 9, Track 11, 12
Amanda Burden - Teacher's Aide 11, 12, Volleyball 9, 10, 11, Volleyball Captain 11
Michelle Busse
Jason Camisa
Robert Joseph Campbell - Autoshop 12, Basketball 9, Scott Cannon - Golf 10
Victoria Cantrell - Band 9, 10, 11, 12
LaShawn Carter - Choir 10
Rachel L. Caruthers - Choir 9, 10, Inspirational Choir 9, 10, Prom Committee 12, Revue 9, 10, 12, Show Choir 11, 12, Teacher's Aide 12
Carlos Casanova
Josh A. Cassaday - Building Trades 11, 12
Willy J. Cassaday - Building Trades 11
Krystal Ann Catania - Choir 9, 10, Pirate Radio 11, 12, PNN 11, 12, Spring Play 10, Velebrates 10, WMHS Productions 11, 12
Sarah Ceria - Office Aide 11, Peer Tutor 11, PNN 12, Student Government 11, Teacher's Aide 9, Track 9
Chia Chiang - Academic Super Bowl 9, 10, 11, 12, Decathlon Team 11, 12, German Club 12, NHS 11, 12, NHS Officer 12, Natural Helpers 10, 11, Orchestra 9, 10, 11, 12, Peer Mediator 9, Spell Bowl Team 9, 10, 11, 12
Jim Cioni - Band 11
Shokela Clark - Diversity Club 12, Drama Club 12, Fall Play 12, Inspirational Choir 10, Key Club 12, Quill & Scroll 12, Spring Play 11, Teachers 12, Track 9, Yearbook 12
Kimberly Yvonne Clemons - Dance Team 9, 10, Drama Club 12
Brittany Cobb - Cheerleading 9, 10, 11, 12, Cheerleading Captain 12, Football Homecoming Court 12, Basketball Homecoming Court 9, 10, 11, Basketball Homecoming Princess 9, 11, Prom Court 11, Prom Queen 11, Teacher's Aide 11, Track 9, Yearbook 12
Kristina Coburn - Cheerleading 9, 10, Choir 9, Drama Club 10, 11, 12, Fall Play 10, 11, French Club 10, 11, 12, French Club Officer 11, 12, Revue 10, 11, 12, Show Choir 11, 12, Spring Play 10, 11, 12, Teachers 10, 11, 12, Velebrates 10, Vocal Teens 11, 12
Crystal J. Coleman - FEAT 12, Inspirational Choir 10
Ken Coleman - Building Trades 11, 12, Drama Club 10
Matthew Collins - Building Trades 11, 12, Office Aide 12
SeAndrea Collins - Cross Country 10, Inspirational Choir 9, 10, 11, Key Club 9, Orchestra 9, 10, 11, 12, SADD 11
Jawan Comer - Building Trades 11, 12
Sarah Conquest
Santino Cordella
Charity Lynn Cornelius
Clarence Craig - HERO 12
Shanel D. Crittenden - Color Guard 9, Track 9
Daren Cudjoe - Revue 12, Track 9, 10, 11, 12
Matthew Cunningham - Auditorium Sound Designer 9, 10, 11, 12, Choir 10, 11, 12, Choir Sound Designer 9, Drama Club 9, 10, 11, 12, Drama Club Officer 9, 11, 12, Fall Play 9, 10, 11, 12, Pirate Radio 9, 10, 11, PNN 9, 10, 11, 12, Quill & Scroll 11, 12, Revue 9, 10, 11, 12, Show Choir 10, 11, 12, Spring Play 9, 10, 11, 12, Teacher's Aide 11, Teachers 9, 10, 11, 12, Teachers Officer 9, 11, 12, Vocal Teens 10, 11, 12, WMHS Productions 9, 10, 11, WMHS Productions Producers 10, 11

Justin Curtis - Baseball 9, 10, 11, 12, Baseball Captain 12, Peer Mediator 12, Wrestling 11, 12
Katherine Rachel Czubik - Choir 9, 10, 11, 12, Character 11, 12, Drama Club 9, 10, 11, 12, Drama Club Officer 12, Fall Play 9, 10, 11, 12, NHS 11, 12, NHS Officer 12, Peer Tutor 11, 12, Show Choir 9, 10, 11, 12, Spring Play 9, 10, 11, 12, Academic Super Bowl 10, 11, 12, Teacher's Aide 11, Teachers 9, 10, 11, 12, Velebrates 10, Vocal Teens 12, Student Director Spring Play 11
Lara Dabis - Cheerleading 9, 10, Future Business Leaders of America 9, French Club 10, 11, 12, French Club Officer 11, 12, Teacher's Aide 12, Yearbook 9
Kristofer James Dabuz - Choir 11, 12, Drama Club 9, 10, 11, 12, Fall Play 9, 10, 11, 12, Jazz Impressions 9, 10, Jazz Impact 10, 11, 12, Orchestra 9, 10, 11, 12, Revue 9, 10, 11, 12, Show Choir 11, 12, Spring Play 9, 10, 11, 12, Teachers 9, 10, 11, 12, Velebrates 10, Vocal Teens 11, 12
Nicholas John Dallas - Football 9, 11, 12, Teacher's Aide 11, 12, Menique Darden - WITT 11, 12
Hoatid Dave - Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Cross Country 10, Environmental Club 11, 12, Key Club 9, 10, Marine Biology 11, 12, NHS 11, 12, Peer Tutor 11, 12, Spanish Club 9, 10, SADD 10, 11, 12, Teacher's Aide 12, Track 9, 10, 11, 12
Ronald Earl Davidson III - Basketball 12, Football 9
Malia Davis
Tiffany LaShawn Davis - Choir 9, 10, 11, 12, Revue 10, Show Choir 11, 12
Zachary Davis - Creative Writing Club 10
Gustavo Del Real
Danessa Ann DelaCruz - Decathlon Team 12, Orchestra 9, 10, 11, 12
Ariel Derrine - Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Basketball 9, 10, 11, Basketball Captain 11, Drama Club 10, 11, 12, Drum Major 12, Fall Play 11, PNN 12, Revue 12, Tennis 9, 10, 11, 12, Teachers 11, 12
Ken Detheridge - National Honor Society 11, 12, PNN 9, Soccer 11, 12
Danette Danielle Deyarmin - Office Aide 12, Teacher's Aide 9, 10
Bianca Dillon - Choir 9, 10
Randolph J. Dillon - Basketball 9, Football 9, 12, Track 11, 12
Nedelko Djordjevic
Thomas Dobes - Drama Club 9, 10, 11, 12, Fall Play 9, 10, 11, 12, National Honor Society 12, Pirate Radio 9, 10, 11, PNN 9, 10, 11, Revue 9, 10, 11, 12, Science Olympiad 9, 10, 11, 12, Spring Play 9, 10, 11, 12, Teachers 10, 11, 12, WMHS Productions 9, 10, 11, WMHS Productions Producer 10, 11, Auditorium Technical Staff Manager 9, 10, 11, 12, MHS Choir Technical Crew Head 9, 10, 11, 12, MHS Performing Arts Web Page Designer 10, 11, 12
Aaron Doking - Auto Shop 12
Anna Marie Doole - HERO 12
Pete Dorsulecki - Soccer 10, 11, 12
Wesley Doty - Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12, Basketball Captain 12
William M. Downs - Office Aide 10, Teacher's Aide 10, 11, 12
Chris Drapeau - Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Baseball 9, Drama Club 11, 12, Fall Play 11, 12, Kids on the Block 11, 12, Revue 11, 12, Spring Play 11, 12, Teachers 11, 12
James Dunaway
Dathan Echols - Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Decathlon Team 11, French Club 11, 12, Jazz Impressions 9, 10, 11, 12, Jazz Impact 10, 11, 12, Quiz Bowl 9, 10, 11, 12, Spell Bowl 9, 10, 11, 12, Super Bowl 9, 10, 11, 12, Tennis 9, 10, 11, 12, Winter Duetline 11, 12
Lizzy Elder - Choir 9, 10, Drama Club 9, 10, Fall Play 10
Lunette Ann Elston - Cross Country 9, 10, 11, German Club 12, Inspirational Choir 9, 10, 11, Orchestra 9, 10, 11, 12, Football Manager 12, Wrestling Manager 12, Teacher's Aide 12, Indiana Youth Orchestra 11, 12
Amanda Marie Elser - Choir 9, 10, 11, 12, Drama Club 9, 10, 11, 12, Drama Club Officer 11, Fall Play 9, 10, 11, 12, Kids on the Block 10, 11, 12, Revue 10, 11, 12, Show Choir 11, 12, Spring Play 9, 10, 11, 12, Teachers 9, 10, 11, 12, Teachers Officer 11, Velebrates 10, Vocal Teens 11, 12

Monique Emersons (Chor 9/10) (Drama) Club 11/12, Fall Play 11/12, Imprints (Chor 9/10) (National Honor Society) 11/12, Peer Tutor 11/12, Review 9/2, Spanish Club 12, Spring Play 11/12

Albert Escobedo - Office Aide 12, Teachers Aide 11, Wrestling 9/10/11/12

Michael Escobedo - Autoshop 12, Football 9

Daniel G Estes - Band 9/10/11/12, Jazz Impressions 10/11/12, Jazz Impact 11/12, Orchestra 11/12, Winter Drumline 11/12

Joshua Jon Everett - Auto Shop 11, Class Officer 9/10, Football 9, Student Government 9, Track 10/11/12, Wrestling 9

Nicholas Fisher - Autoshop 12, Football 9/10/11/12, Track 9/10/11/12

Jennifer Fizer - Autoshop 12

Kristina Leigh Fleck - Band 9/10/11/12, Dance Team 11/12, Dance Team Captain 11/12, German Club 11/12, German Club Officer 11/12, NHS 11/12, Review 12, Soccer 9/10, Soccer Captain 10, Spring Play 10, SADD 10, Wrestling Manager 9/10/11, Winter Drumline 11/12

Oswaldo Flores - Band 9/10/11/12, French Club 12, NHS 11/12

Veronica Flores - Chor 9/10, Inspirational Chor 10, Guidance Aide 9, Wrestling Pin Pal 10

Katie Ja Floyd - Cheerleading 9/10/11/12, Cheerleading Captain 9, Chor 9/10/11/12, Drama Club 11/12, Fall Play 10, Track & Field Student Manager 11, NHS 11/12, Review 11/12, Show Choir 11/12, Spring Play 9/10, 12, SADD 12, SADD Officer 12, Track 10/12, Velveeteers 10, Vocal Teams 11/12

Leo Ann Fralinger - Student Government 10/11/12, Review 12, Teachers Aide 9/10/12

Ginger Ja Francis - Band 9/10/11/12, Dance Team 9/10/11/12, Dance Team Captain 12, German Club 12, Peer Mediator 9/10/11/12, Review 12, SADD 9/10, Winter Drumline 11/12

Mike Francis - Football 9/10/11/12, Football Captain 12, Teachers Aide 12

Kelli Lyn Fravel - Chor 9/10, Student Government 11

Casey Frey - Chor 9/10/11/12

Jula Frey - Chor 9/10/11/12, Charlotte's 12, Velveeteers 11

Ken Frey - Teachers Aide 12, Track 12

Megan Star Furie - FEA 11/12, SADD 12, Volleyball 9/10/11

Christopher Andrew Gabriel - Autoshop 12, Baseball 9/10/11/12, Class Officer 9/10/11/12, Prom King 11, Soccer 12, Student Government 9/10, Wrestling 9/10/11/12, Wrestling Captain 12

Jason Gaffney - Football 9/10/11, Wrestling 10, Wrestling Captain 10

Tiffany Galeagos - Color Guard 9/10/11/12, Color Guard Captain 12, Peer Mediator 11, Peer Tutor 12, Student Government 9/10, Teachers Aide 12

Jennifer Garcia - Color Guard 10, SADD 10

Jula A Garcia

Nancy Garcia - Color Guard 9/10/11/12, Color Guard Captain 12, Office Aide 10

Natasha Ivelisse Garcia - Yearbook 12

Kenita Garner - Chor 9, Teachers Aide 12, Track 9/12

Alan Gavin - Band 9, Basketball 9/10/12

Alia Tania Gavin - Cheerleading 9/10, Orchestra 9/10, Coli J. Gay

Elacy Collins Jay General - Chor 9, Cross Country 10, Football 11, SADD Officer 10

Alan Genter - German Club 12

Larry Gibbons

Stephen Marcus Gill - Baseball 9/10/11/12, Baseball Captain 12, Football 9/10/11/12, Football Captain 12, NHS 11/12

Joy Ashley Gilmore - Drama Club 9/10/12, Fall Play 9, SADD 9/10

Alan Gregory Gima

Jason Giordano - Art Club 9, Baseball 9/10/11/12, Baseball Captain 12, Football 9/10/11/12, NHS 11/12, Spring Play 9, Teachers Aide 12, Wrestling 9

Slatica Gjerskic - Spanish Club 11, Student Government 11

Sharon Lynn Glaze - Chor 9/10, Spring Play 10, Teachers Aide 12, Velveeteers 10

Karina Gomez - HERO 11, Work Study 12

Elena Maria Gonzalez - Class Officer 9/10, Dance Team 9/10/11/12, Dance Team Captain 11/12, Football Homecoming Court 12, Basketball Homecoming Court 11/12, PNN 10/11/12, Yearbook 12

Jessica Renee Gonzalez - Class Officer 11/12, Drama Club 12, Wrestling Pin Pal 9/10/12, Soccer 9, Spring Play 11, Soccer Manager 11/12, Teachers Aide 11/12

Stephanie Gonzalez - HERO 12, Teachers Aide 10

Kethi Gough

Aaron Green - Basketball 9

Candace A. Greenleaf - Chor 9, Peer Mediator 10

Tawana Lejai Greer - Chor 9/10, Dance Team 9/10, Peer Mediator 12

Karen Lynn Gresh - Chor 9/10/11/12, Drama Club 9/10/11/12, Fall Play 9/10/11/12, French Club 9/10/11/12, French Club Officer 12, Review 10/11/12, Show Chor 9/10/11/12, Spring Play 9/10/11/12, Student Government 12, Teachers Aide 12, Trespas 10/11/12, Velveeteers 11/12

Renee Nell Griggs - German Club 10/12, German Club Officer 10, Orchestra 9/10/11/12, Quiz Bowl 10

Brittany Grimmer - Band 9/10/11/12, Drama Club 12, Speech Team 9, SADD 10/11, Student Government 11/12

Samantha Marie Grzesik - Cheerleading 9/10, French Club 10/11/12, Peer Tutor 12, SADD 12, Student Government 11, Volleyball 9/10, Yearbook 12, Yearbook Section Editor 12

Tamara Marie Grzesik - German Club 12, Teachers Aide 12, Volleyball 9/10, Yearbook 12

Adam Benjamin Guajardo

Tim Gust - Football 12

Jeffery Halachak

Sandra Halbe

Juan Hall - Basketball 9

Janice Halenbeck - Bowling Team 10/11/12, German Club 12, NHS 11/12, Orchestra 9/10/11/12, Peer Tutor 11/12, Softball 9/10/11/12, Volleyball 9/10/11/12, Volleyball Captain 12

Mike Halligan - Wrestling 9

Rachel Lee Hammond - Cheerleading 9/10/11/12, Peer Tutor 12, Teachers Aide 12, Yearbook 12, Yearbook Section Editor 12, Quil & Sew 12

Marion James Hanley - Band 9/10/11/12, Football 12, SADD 11, Track 11/12

Jonathan Harris - Natural Helpers 12, Office Aide 10

Nathan Harris - French Club 10/11/12, NHS 11/12

Joshua Edward Harvath - Peer Mediator 10, Pirate Radio 9, PNN 9/10/11/12, Swimming 9/10/11/12, Swimming Captain 12, Teacher's Aide 9, WHMS Productions 9/10/11/12, WHMS Productions Producer 11/12

Chaya Marie Hayes - Chor 9, Drama Club 9/10, Inspirational Chor 9/10/11, Natural Helpers 12, Quest 12, Track 11/12

Shervine Lonica Haynes - FEA 12, Quest 9, Track 9/10/11/12

Corey Hawkins - Basketball 12

Chris Hebert - Golf 9/10/11

Elizabeth Henderson - Band 9/10/11/12, Inspirational Chor 11, Peer Mediator 11, Teachers Aide 12

Nicole Herrera

Antane Higgins - Drama Club 9, Fall Play 9, Track 10/11/12

Jacquelyn Marie Highsmith - Softball 9/10/11, Teachers Aide 10

Alexandria Hodges - Decathlon Team 11/12

Andrew Holmes - German Club 11

Lauren Jenice Homala - Color Guard 9/10/11/12, Orchestra 9/10/11/12, Student Advisory Committee 9/10/11/12

Stacey Hooks

Joyce Elizabeth Horan - Office Aide 12, Yearbook 11/12, Yearbook Co-Editor 12

Heather Hush - NHS 11/12, Softball 9/10/11/12

Robert Huth - Football 9/10/11/12, Key Club 10/11/12, Key Club Officer 11/12, Wrestling 11

Cynthia Hunkle - Band 9/10/11/12, Creative Writing Club 9/10, Drum Major 11/12, NHS 12, Peer Tutor 11

David Frank Husak II - Autoshop 11, HERO 12

Elizabeth Ilevski - Guest Club 12, Yearbook 12, Yearbook Section Editor 12

Don Inohane - NHS 12

Melissa Ivanovic - NHS 12, Peer Tutor 12, Student Government 10/12, Teachers Aide 12

Kristine Jackoms - Chor 9/10/11, SADD 12, Spanish Club 12, Spanish Club Officer 12, SADD 12

Jennifer Jackowski - Band 9/10, Color Guard 10

Arthur Jackson - Autoshop 11/12, Band 9/10/11, Football 9, Pep Band 10, Marching Band 10/11

Franklin Jackson - Building Trades 12, Football 10/11

Ashlie Lashawna Jacobs

Matthew David Jagola - Band 9/10/11, Diving 9, NHS 11/12, Soccer 9/11/12, Swimming 9, Track 10/11/12

Jonathan Michael Jasinski - Band 9/10/11/12, Drama Club 9/10/11/12, Fall Play 10/11/12, Jazz Impact 12, Jazz Impressions 10/11, JETS 11/12, NHS 12, Review 10/12, Robb Goldberg 12, Spring Play 9/10/11/12, Student Advisory Committee 11/12, Teachers Aide 12, Tennis 9/10/11, Trespas 10/11/12, Winter Drumline 11/12

James D. Johnson Jr. - Basketball 9/11

Justin Johnson - Basketball 9/10/11/12, Basketball Captain 12

Vince Johnson

Nicole Marie Jolly - Band 9

Billy Wayne Jones

Erka Jones - French Club 9/10/11, French Club Officer 11, Office Aide 9, Pin Pals 10, Role Players 11/12, Student Advisory Committee 10/11/12, SADD 9/10/11/12, Student Government 9/10/11/12, Student Government Officer 11

Ernestine Jones

Joseph T. Juris - Cross Country 11, Environmental Club 9/10, German Club 12, ETS 11, Marine Biology 9/10, NHS 11/12, Orchestra 9/10/11/12, Review 12, Soccer 9/10/11/12, Track 10/11/12

Candace Marie Gloria Kapranos - Chor 9/10, Drama Club 11, Office Aide 12, Track 10, Yearbook 12

Jimmy Karamacost

Amy Kaste - Chor 9/10/12, FCA 9/12, SADD 12, Show Choir 12, Spring Play 9/10/12, Velveeteers 10/11

Stacey Leigh Kavas - Chor 9, Dance Team 9/10/11, HERO 12, Soccer 9/10

Crystal Kedziora - Key Club 9, Teachers Aide 12

Jonathan Kelsey - Pressman 11/12, Teachers Aide 12

Tyannah Elizabeth King - Chor 9, Track 10/12

Jamie Michelle Kirby - Teachers Aide 12

Nicholas Kleis

Jamisin Klieh - Teachers Aide 9/12

Jim Knight - Building Trades 12

Martina Consula Knight - BPA 9, Health Occupations Students of America 9, Key Club 11/12, Key Club Officer 12, Peer Mediator 11, Student Advisory Committee 9, Volleyball 9

Philip Knotts - Creative Writing Club 11/12

Christopher M. Kors - Key Club 9, JETS 11, NHS 11/12, Orchestra 9/10/11/12

Mark A. Kovas - Band 10/11/12, Bowling Team 10/11/12, Drama Club 10/11/12, Drum Major 11/12, Fall Play 11, Jazz Impressions 9, Jazz Impact 11, Peer Mediator 9/10/11/12, Review 10/11/12, Spring Play 10/12, Trespas 11/12, Winter Drumline 12

Dana Marie Krasak - Art Club 9/10, Fall Play 11, FEA 9, NHS 11/12, Peer Tutor 12, SADD 9/10, Student Government 11/12

Jillian Ashley Kuck - Chor 9, HERO 12, Basketball Homecoming Court 9, Prom Court 11, Volleyball 9



Matt Lancaster - Football 9/10/12, Football Captain 12
Riley Larimore - Football 9/10/12, Football Captain 12
Teacher's Aide 12
Jacob Lashenik
Sandra Lazoski - Private Radio 10, PNN 9/10/12
Jane Huel Lee - Decathlon Team 10/11/12, NHS 11/12, Natural
 Helpers 10/11/12, Orchestra 9, Peer Tutor 12, Quiz Bowl
 10, Science Olympiad 10/11/12, Spell Bowl 10/11/12, Super
 Bowl 9/10/11/12, Tennis 9
Christopher Alan Lesniak - Natural Helpers 10, Guest
 Club 11
Julie Anne Lesniak - Choir 9/10/11/12, French Club 10/11/12
 Football Homecoming Court 12, Basketball Homecoming
 Princess 11, Basketball Homecoming Queen 12, JETS 9/10/11
 NHS 11/12, Prom Court 11, PNN 11, Science Olympiad
 10/11, Show Choir 11/12, Student Advisory Committee
 10/11/12, Tennis Manager 10/11/12, Tennis 9/10/11/12, Tennis
 Captain 9/10/11/12, Vets 10
Kevin Clall Lewis - Baseball 9, Jazz Impressions 9/10/11
 Jazz Impact 11/12, Teacher's Aide 9, Orchestra Winds
 11/12
Daniel Lexsa - French Club 11/12, French Club Officer 12,
 NHS 11/12, NHS Officer 12
LaNikka Lewis - Band 9/10/11, Track 9/10/11/12
Zerubbabel Lewis - Band 9/10/11, Football 9/10/11/12
Ashley Nicole Liddell - Choir 9/10, Drama Club 9/10, Fall
 Play 9, Inspirational Chor 9/10, Key Club 10, Newspaper
 9/10, Student Government 9
Valerie Lipp - Color Guard 11/12, Key Club 10/11/12, Key
 Club Officer 11/12
Joe Llanza - Art Club 9/10/11, Private Radio 10
Lisa Marie Lopez - HERO 12
Leandra Gulo Lucato - Spanish Club 12, Tennis 12
Mitchell Lynn
Amanda Maldonado - Cheerleading 10, Cheerleading
 Captain 11
Maria Maple - Autoshop 12, Bowling Team 10/11/12, Cross
 Country 9/10/11/12, Cross Country Captain 12, Teachers
 Aide 12, Track 9/10/12
Ryan Marlow - Newspaper 11/12, Newspaper Section
 Editor 12, PNN 12
Margan Ashley Marovich - Athletic Trainer 9/10,
 Basketball 9/10/11, Teachers Aide 10/11/12
Markeyta Martin - Decathlon 11/12, Drama Club 9, HERO
 11/12, Revue 11, Basketball Manager 10/11/12, Tennis 11/12
Melissa Matsey - Choir 9, Teachers Aide 11
Meghan A. Mauman - PNN 10, Soccer 9/10/11/12, SADD
 12, Teachers Aide 9, Track 9/10/12, Yearbook 11
Jennifer McCann - Natural Helpers 12, Office Aide 12,
 Peer Mediator 9/10/11, Peer Tutor 11, Teachers Aide 12,
 Guest 11
Bonita McCarley
Edward McCallum Jr. - Special Olympics 10/11/12
Joe McKnight - French Club 11/12, Track 12
Michael McLaughlin - Natural Helpers 10, Teachers Aide
 12
Saphia Alexandria McLeod - FCCLA 9, French Club
 9/10/12, Student Government 11/12, Media Center
 Assistant 9
Anthony McLucas
Maegon McDrew - Basketball 9/10, Class Officer 9/10/11/12,
 Choir 9, French Club 9/10/11/12, Basketball Homecoming
 Princess 11, NHS 11/12, Peer Tutor 12, Prom Court 11,
 Volleyball 9/10/11/12, Volleyball Captain 12
Brandon McVade - Band 9/10/11/12, Drama Club 10/11,
 Fall Play 10/11, Football 9, Jazz Impressions 9, Jazz
 Impact 10/11/12, Pep Band 9/10/11/12, Revue 12, Spring
 Play 10/11, Student Advisory Committee 9/10/11/12,
 SuperBowl 11, Tennis 10/11
Danielle Meadows - Choir 11/12, Teachers Aide 11
Brandon Meekin - Autoshop 12, Natural Helpers 10, Peer
 Mediator 11, Private Radio 12, PNN 11/12, Teachers Aide
 10

Jeff Medding - Autoshop 12, Band 9/10/11, Football 9/10/11/12,
 Prom Court 11, Track 9/10/11/12
Jessica Menchaca - Soccer 9
Adam Milen Milcevic - Football 9/10, Newspaper
 9/10/11/12, Newspaper Section Editor 12, Private Radio
 11/12, PNN 11/12, Revue 11, SADD 10, Yearbook 11/12
Kara Jean Miller - Choir 9/10/11/12, Choralists 12, Cross
 Country 9, Dance Team 10, Diving 9, Peer Mediator 9,
 SADD 12, SADD Officer 12, Swimming 9, Track 9,
 Vets 10
Jacob Minnick - Cross Country 10, Soccer 9, Track 11/12
Alexander Mirin - Private Radio 10, Wrestling 9
Staci Ann Miskalek - Drama Club 9, German Club 10,
 German Club Officer 10, HERO 12, NHS 11/12, Peer
 Mediator 9, Quiz Bowl Team 9/10, Science Olympiad
 10, Super Bowl 10
Danielle Marie Malchan - Band 9/10, German Club 12,
 Sports Trainer 9/10/11/12, Swimming 9/10/11/12, Swimming
 Captain 11/12, Track 10/11/12
Ryan Moore - Autoshop 12, Bowling Team 10/11/12, Choir
 9/10/11/12, Tennis 9/10, Vocal Teams 11/12
Christopher B. Morgan - Art Club 10
Erin Elizabeth Morgan - Cheerleading 9/10, Choir 9, Quest
 Club 9/10, Softball 9/10/11, SADD 10, Teachers Aide
 10/11/12, Yearbook 12, Yearbook Section Editor 12
Eric Marrone - Baseball 9/10/11/12, Key Club 12, NHS 11/12,
 Natural Helpers 12, SADD 12
Gerald Masley Jr. - Basketball 9/10, Football 9/10/11/12,
 Inspirational Chor 9, Basketball Manager 11, Track 11/12
John Masely - Football 9/10/11/12
Joseph Flanagan Mustafa - Baseball 9, Football 12,
 Marine Biology 11, Peer Mediator 11, Track 11/12,
 Yearbook 11
Angel Myszkowski - Autoshop 11
Mariana Naglosky - Choir 9/10/11/12, Drama Club 9, Key
 Club 12, Show Choir 11/12, Vets 10
Christopher Joseph Nahlik - Band 9/10/11/12, FCCLA 11/12,
 Golf 9/10/11/12, Jazz Impressions 9/10, Teachers Aide 12,
 Tennis 10/11/12
Jackie Nauakas - Autoshop 11, Choir 9/10/11, Show Choir 11,
 Vets 10
Nicola Neely - Choir 9, Cross Country 9/10/11, French Club
 10, French Club Officer 11/12, Inspirational Chor 9/10,
 Revue 9/10/11/12, Show Choir 11/12, Spring Play 10/12,
 Basketball and Football Trainer 11/12, Track 9/10/12,
 Vets 10, Vocal Teams 11/12
David Irvin Neville III - Band 9/10/11/12, Jazz Impressions 9,
 Jazz Impact 10/11/12, Orchestra 10/11/12, Track 9/11/12,
 Winter Drumline Captain 11
Lisa Marie Newell - Orchestra 9/10/11/12, Volleyball
 9/10/11/12, Volleyball Captain 12
Delia Neylan - Drama Club 9/10/11/12, Drama Club Officer
 11, Fall Play 9/10/11/12, NHS 11/12, Orchestra 9/10/11/12,
 Revue 10/11/12, Spring Play 9/10/11/12, Tapers 10/11/12
Luke C. Niehaus - Autoshop 12, Soccer 9/10/11/12, Soccer
 Captain 10, Track 9/10/11/12
Theresa Paige Nixon - Dance Team 9/10/11/12, Dance Team
 Captain 10/12, Environmental Club 11/12, French Club 10,
 Marine Biology 11/12, Student Government 11/12
Flora Nunes - Natural Helpers 12, Quest 11
Lauren Thresa Nuzzo - Football Homecoming Court 12,
 Office Aide 11/12, Softball 9
Monolis Olonzados
Craig V. Ols - Baseball 9/10/11/12, Soccer 9/10/11/12
Offit Onel - Art Club 9
Michael O'Reilly - Autoshop 12
Shawn P. Ortiz
Shannon Orton - Softball 9/10
Natlie Osborn - Band 9/10/11/12, Drama Club 12
Amanda Pagel
Krystal Palacios - Choir 9/10
Taylor Palmotzer
Myke Palomo

Amanda Panning - Band 9/10/11, Cross Country 9, German
 Club 11/12, Soccer 9/10/11/12, Soccer Captain 11, Teachers
 Aide 12, Track 12
Sarah Ann Papp - Choir 9/10/11, Drama Club 10, French
 Club 10, Spring Play 10, Vets 10/11/12
Jermell Parrish
Phil Patterson - Marine Biology 10/12, Wrestling 9/10/12
Clifford Edward Paya - Autoshop 12, Football 9, Wrestling
 9/10
Zachary T. Pearman - Autoshop 12, French Club 11, Soccer
 9/10/11/12
Lauren Peira - Bowling Team 10/11/12, Creative Writing
 10/11/12, Marine Biology 10, NHS 12
Claudia Patricia Perez - French Club 12, Quest Club 12,
 SADD 12, Teacher's Aide 10
David C. Perry - Autoshop 11, Band 9/10/11, Private Radio 10,
 PNN 10/11, WWHS Productions 10, WWHS Productions
 Producer 10, 11
Tim Perry
Veranica C. Phelps - Decathlon Team 12, Fellowship of
 Christian Athletes 11, Inspirational Chor 10, Key Club 9,
 Natural Helpers 12, Peer Mediator 11, Peer Tutor 12,
 Quest Club 12, SADD 11/12, SADD Officer 11/12, Teachers
 Aide 11
Camela L. Pickett - Choir 9/10/11/12, Peer Mediator 12,
 Jason Price - Key Club 10, Track 11/12
Amanda Pivarnick - Drama Club 11/12, Fall Play 11/12,
 Key Club 10, Teacher's Aide 10
Aimee M. Plakas - Volleyball 9/10/11
Kelly M. Plaster - Cheerleading 9/10/11/12, Gymnastics 9/10,
 Softball 10, Teacher's Aide 12, Yearbook 12
Cloude Powers III - Band 9/10/11, Basketball 9, Football 12,
 Natural Helpers 9/10, SADD 11, Track 11/12
Ranisha Eyoona Pratt - Basketball 9, Choir 9/10, Dance
 Team 9/10/11/12
Cathryn D. Presley - Jazz Impressions 9/10
Seneca Price - Office Aide 12
David L. Pritt - Baseball 9, Basketball 9/10/11, Fellowship of
 Christian Athletes 12
Gregory Pucher - Teacher's Aide 12
Lindsay Purnea - Color Guard 9/10/11/12, SADD 12,
 Swimming 9
Diana Elaine Quintanilla - Color Guard 10/11/12, SADD 12,
 Danielle Marie Ragon - Color Guard 10, Pressman 12,
 Swimming 9, Teacher's Aide 12
Tiaira Danielle Raguen - Choir 9/10/11, Vets 10
April Ramirez - Color Guard 10, Orchestra 9/10/11/12, Peer
 Mediator 11, Soccer Manager 11
Timothy Kyle Randolph - Band 9/10/11, German Club 12,
 NHS 11/12, Office Aide 12, Swimming 9/10/11/12, Swimming
 Captain 12, Track 11
Jash Reberg
Justin William Reed
Coleman Ryan Regan - Band 9/10/11/12, SADD 12, SADD
 Officer 12, Wrestling Manager 12
Heather Lynn Renahan - Autoshop 12, Basketball 9/10/11/12,
 Basketball Captain 12, Cross Country 9, German Club
 12, Prom Committee 12, Softball 10, Teacher's Aide 12
Felicia Renner - Office Aide 10/11/12, Peer Mediator 12
Amy Reyna
Joey Reyna
Amanda Richio - Office Aide 12, Peer Tutor 11
James Thomas Riddle - Cross Country 9/10/11, Orchestra
 9/10, Track 9
Melissa Ann Richards - Office Aide 11/12
Robert C. Richards - Drama Club 11/12, Fall Play 11/12,
 Marine Biology 9, NHS 11/12, Science Olympiad 12,
 Spring Play 11/12
Simon Risteviski
Nick Roberts - Baseball 9/10/11/12, Baseball Captain 12,
 Basketball 9, Football 9/10/11/12
Amy Robertson - Teacher's Aide 12

Brenton C. Robinson - Baseball 9.10.11, 12. Basketball 10.11.12. Michael John Rodriguez - Wrestling 9.10.11, 12.
 Sandra Rodriguez - Natural Helpers 12.
 Felix Ramon - HERO 12.
 Ryan Romeo - Band 9.10.11. Baseball 9.10.11, 12. Jazz Impressions 9.10.11. Sports Trainer 9.10.11, 12. Pep Band 9.10.11.
 Lisa Marie Ross - Environmental Club 11. Marine Biology 11. NHS 11.12. Newspaper 12. Newspaper Editor-In-Chief 12. Quest Club 11. Gull and Scall 12. Science Olympiad 10.11, 12. Soccer 9.10.11. Tennis Manager 12. Swimming 9.10.11, 12. Swimming Captain 11.12. Teacher's Aide 11. Tennis 9.10.11.
 Maya Rothstein - Choir 9.10.11, 12. Pin Pal 10. Student Government 10.11, 12. Student Government Officer 11.12. Football Manager 10.11, 12. Teacher's Aide 11. Track Manager 10.11. Vets 11.12.
 Athanasios Rousis - Autoshop 12. Football 9.10. Orchestra 9.10.11, 12.
 Carey Ruckman - Dance Team 9.10.11, 12. Dance Team Captain 12. Football Homecoming Court 12. PNN 10.11, 12. Spring Play 11. SADD 9. Student Government 11. Yearbook 12. Yearbook Section Editor 12.
 Emrielle Rumph - Track 10.
 Jennifer Ruschak - Color Guard 9.10.11, 12. Orchestra 9.10.11, 12. Revue 10.11.
 Melissa Eve Russell - NHS 11.12. Softball 9.10.11, 12. Amanda Beth Rysiewicz - Special Olympics 11.12.
 Carla Renee Sabo
 Kevin Thomas Sager - Band 9.10.11, 12. French Club 11.12. Jazz Impressions 10. Jazz Impact 11.12. NHS 12. Pep Band 9.10.11, 12.
 Kelly Ann Samson - Choir 9.10.11. Color Guard 9.10.11. Drama Club 10.11. Key Club 10.11, 12. Key Club Officer 12. SADD 9.10. Track 11.
 Melissa Sanchez - Basketball 9.10.11, 12. Orchestra 9.10.11, 12. Kaitrese Susan Sawyer - Band 9.10.11, 12. Pep Band 11.12. Water Drums 11.12.
 Shannon Nicole Schaffer - HERO 12. Volleyball 9.
 Krystle Marie Scholten - Band 9.10.11, 12.
 Theresa Sciaccotta - Basketball 9.10.11, 12. Cheerleading 10.11, 12. French Club 9.10.11. NHS 11.12. Student Government 9. Track 9.
 Brandon W. Scott - Autoshop 11. Orchestra 9.
 Kristen E. Scott - Ambassador 9. Office Aide 12.
 Michael Paul Sczurko - Band 9.10.11. Bowling Team 11.12. Teacher's Aide 12. Office Aide 12.
 Joshua Seabrook - Pirate Radio 11. PNN 10.11, 12. WMHS Productions 12.
 Julie Elizabeth Seagraves - Basketball 9.10.11, 12. Basketball Captain 10.11, 12. NHS 11.12. PNN 10.11, 12. Soccer 9.10.11, 12. Softball 9.10.11, 12.
 Goran Seat - Soccer 10.
 Anthony Seay
 Sharon Marie Sepulveda - Key Club 9.10.11. Spanish Club 9.10.11.
 Kyle Shea
 Norman R. Sherwood - Basketball 9.10.11. Football 9. Track 9.10.12.
 Samantha Shierack - Teacher's Aide 9.10.
 Stephen A. Shiack - Drama Club 9.10.11, 12. Fall Play 9.10.11. Spring Play 9. Teacher's Aide 10.11. Thespians 10.11, 12.
 Jennifer Michelle Sierra - Cheerleading 9.10.11, 12. Teacher's Aide 12. Yearbook 12.
 Maria Lee Sims - Basketball 9.10.12. Choir 9.10.11.
 Keith Smith - Building Trades 11.12.
 Aleaza Avi Smith - Dance Team 10. Office Aide 10.12. Peer Mediator 11.
 Christian Smith - Choir 9. Dance Team 9. Dance Team Captain 10.
 Lydia D. Smith - Choir 9.10. Key Club 12. Vets 11.12.

Chad Snyder - Baseball 9.10.11, 12. Basketball 9.10.11, 12.
 Edward Anthony Soltys III - Student Government 11.
 Gabrielle Somling - Choir 9. Office Aide 9.11. ROTC 9. Soccer 9.
 Tom Swich - Autoshop 12. Football 9.10.11, 12. Track 11.12. Meredith Sperling - Choir 12. Creative Writing Club 12. Drama Club 12. Fall Play 12. Soccer 12. Spring Play 12. Thespians 12. Track 12. Vets 11.12.
 Mark Philip Spurlack - Choir 9.10.11.
 Nicola Srinivas-Bugli - Swimming 11.12.
 Sarah Anne Stackert - Dance Team 11.12. Newspaper Section Editor 12. SADD 12. Tennis 10.
 Erick Stanley
 Josh Stephens - Baseball 9.10.
 Melissa Leigh Stewart - Creative Writing Club 10. Creative Writing Club Officer 11. Dance Team 9.10.11, 12. HERO 12.
 Jovan Stojanovski - Teacher's Aide 12.
 Delian Stokes - Peer Mediator 11.
 Timothy M. Stoner - Band 9.10.11. Fellowship of Christian Athletes 9.10.11, 12.
 Brandon Strange - Key Club 9.10.
 Tina Strehler
 Jarmaine Strickland
 David Charles Strom - Choir 9. Teacher's Aide 12.
 Ann Marie Stupic - NHS 11.12. Natural Helpers 12. Soccer 9.10.11, 12. Soccer Captain 12. Track 11.12.
 Chris Sullivan - Autoshop 12. Football 9.10.11, 12. Wrestling 9.10.
 Steve Summers Jr. - Autoshop 12. Teacher's Aide 10.
 Andrew Swierc - Autoshop 12. Band 9.10.11. Bowling Team 10.12.
 Margaret Szczerba - Guest Club 12. Soccer 9.10.11, 12. Soccer Captain 12.
 Robert L. Tafaia - Autoshop 11.12. Business Professionals of America 11. Peer Mediator 11. Soccer 11. Student Government 12.
 Philip N. Tans
 Megan Ternes - Basketball 9.10. Teacher's Aide 12.
 John Thien - Building Trades 12. Hockey
 Joseph Thomas - Football 9.10.11, 12. Tennis 9.10. Track 11.12. Wrestling 9.10.12. Wrestling Captain 12.
 Kaleena Thomas - Choir 9.10.11. Cross Country 9. Drama Club 11. Fall Play 9. Inspirational Choir 9.11. Natural Helpers 9. ROTC 9. Show Choir 9. Track 9.10.
 Sha-Tonn Thompson - Basketball 9. Drama Club 12. Inspirational Choir 11. ROTC 9. Teacher's Aide 12. Track 9.
 Ashley Renise Tipton - Key Club 9.10. Teens For Christ 11.12.
 Andre K. Toney - Cross Country 11. Track 10.11.
 Mirjana Trkulja - Tennis 11.12. NHS 11.
 Jose Trujillo - Autoshop 12. Swimming 9.
 Genevieve Tucker - Band 9.10.12. Color Guard 11.
 Evelyn Tyndos - Choir 9. Office Aide 10. Soccer 9.10.
 Nick Ullmann - Choir 9.10.11, 12. Drama Club 9.10.11, 12. Fall Play 9.11.12. Natural Helpers 12. Show Choir 9.12. Speech Team 9. Spring Play 10.11, 12. Thespians 11.12. Vocal Teams 12.
 John Uphaw - French Club 11. Prom Court 11.
 Ivan Uresky
 Kristyn Vallancourt - Teacher's Aide 12. Yearbook 12.
 Matt Vallant - HERO 12.
 Noel Valle - Wrestling 9.10.
 Kelly Jo Van der Woude - Key Club 9. Office Aide 11.
 Melissa M. Vargas - Cheerleading 9.10.11, 12. Gymnastics 9.10.11, 12. Softball 10. SADD 12. Football Trainer 12. Track 9.
 Robert Jeffrey Vargo - Teacher's Aide 12.

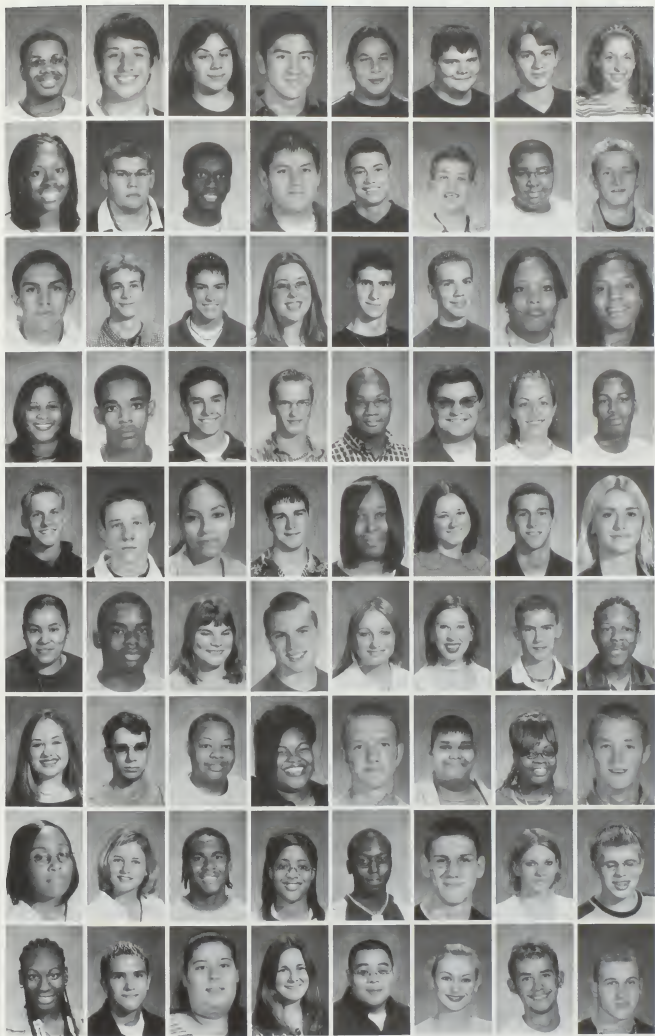
Lisa Vartanoff - Choir 9.10.11. Color Guard 9.10.11, 12. Color Guard Captain 11.2. Drama Club 9.11.12. Show Choir 10. Vets 11.12. Winter Guard 9.10.11.
 Ashley Elizabeth Vasatis - FEAT 12. Office Aide 12. Peer Mediator 12.
 Marissa M. Vawter - Band 9.10.11, 12. Creative Writing Club 9.10. Jazz Impressions 9.10.11. Jazz Impact 12. NHS 11.12. NHS Officer 12. Orchestra 11.12. Soccer 9.10.11, 12. Super Bowl 9.10.11, 12. Pep Band 9.10.11, 12.
 Jessica Velez - Choir 9.10.11, 12.
 Amanda Marie Verdeyen - Office Aide 12. Quest Club 10. SADD 12. Student Government 9.10.11.
 Erika Villarreal - Band 9.10.11. Key Club 11.12. Key Club Officer 12. Spanish Club 9.10.11, 12. Spanish Club Officer 9.10.11, 12. SADD Officer 11. Student Government 12. Teacher's Aide 11.12.
 Jayson L. Villars - Diving 9. Soccer 11.12. Swimming 9. Teacher's Aide 12.
 Cindy Ann Wahlman - Drama Club 10.11, 12. Drama Club Officer 11. Fall Play 10.11, 12. Revue 11.12. Spring Play 10.11, 12. Thespians 11.12.
 Nathan Walker - Autoshop 11. Choir 10. Marine Biology 11.12.
 Derek Wampler - Football 9.10.11, 12. NHS 11.12. Office Aide 12. Orchestra 11.12.12.
 Leah Weathering - Band 9.10.11, 12. Inspirational Choir 11. Orchestra 11. Track 11.12. Pep Band 9.10.
 Chris Wesley
 Tiffany N. Wesley - Choir 9.10.11, 12. Inspirational Choir 9.10. Vets 11.12.
 Roy William Wilbanks - FEAT 10.11. Newspaper 11. Newspaper Section Editor 11. Gull and Scall 11. Swimming 12. Track 11.12.
 Sarina Nicole Wilkerson
 Brandon Williams - Band 9.10.
 Bryan Williams - Peer Mediator 9. Pirate Radio 10.11, 12. PNN 10.11, 12. Revue 11.2. WMHS Productions Producer 11.12.
 Carlette Williams
 Casby Williams - Inspirational Choir 9.10.11, 12. Natural Helpers 11. Office Aide 9.12. Peer Mediator 9.10.11, 12. PNN 9. Student Government 11. Student Government Officer 11. Diversity Club 9.10.11, 12.
 Jason Thomas Williams - Basketball 9. Debate 10. Football 9.11, 12. Track 10.11, 12.
 Kevin Williams
 Salena Williams
 Amy Ann-Marie Wilson - Choir 9. Show Choir 11. Spring Play 10. SADD 12. Vets 11.12.
 Gregory James Winn - Autoshop 11.
 Timothy A. Wirtz
 Brandon A. Wise
 Chris Warner - Band 9.10.11, 12. Jazz Impressions 10.
 Erin Wolfe - NHS 11.12. NHS Officer 12. Softball 9.10.11, 12. Volleyball 9.
 Michelle Lauren Wood - Choir 9.10.11, 12. Show Choir 12. Spring Play 10. SADD 12. Vets 11.12.
 Stephanie Wuok - Band 9.10.11, 12.
 Brian Jonathan Yack - Baseball 9.10. Football 9.10.11, 12. Football Captain 12. Prom Court 11.
 LaDonna M. Yark - Band 9.10.11, 12. Basketball 9.10.11.12.12.12.12. Teachers Aide 12.
 Craig Zarembo - Swimming 11.12. Choir 9.10.11, 12. Office Aide 9. Pirate Radio 11.12. Show Choir 11.12. Vocal Teams 11.12.
 Jennifer Lynn Zark - French Club 12. NHS 11.12. SADD 12. Teachers Aide 12. Volleyball 9.
 Brian E. Zydz - Soccer 9.10.11, 12. Teacher's Aide 12.



JUNIORS



From left to right: Adam Stetson, Elizabeth Gallinatti, Felicia Parks, Caitlin Floyd, Sabrina Hennessy, Christina Peschke, Lauren McClendon, Freddie Dobry, Nicole Sparger, Ryan Zurek, Michelle Farley, Bradley Woodward, Lindsey Gabriel, Daniel Sierra, Laura Vaughn, Shaina Tucker, Michael Howard, Lauren Strom, Kara Lux, Kristina Damjanoska, Abby Hacker, Emily Graun, Vinny Reives, David Coughlin, Paulo Laorden.



Idris Abdal-Hafiz
Jeffery Abrega
Melody Ann Ackermann
Chris Adams
Christopher Agne
Joseph Aigner
Cory Alder
Christine Aloia

Taneshia Amey
Jacob Appleton
Kwame Asabere
Jeremiah Ashe
Brian Ashford
Daniel Avery
Shannon Ayers
William Bailey

Rick Balerini
Alan Balch
Timothy Balka
Allison Banser
Christopher Barbauld
Caleb Bateman
Kamika Battle
La Shawna Beard

Dana Bellard
Eugene Bellman
Michael Beria
Kyle Beshears
Paul Best
Joshua Biancardi
Stephanie Bigelow
Christopher Bishop

Ryan Bishop
Brian Boksa
Chivvan Bonilla
Heath Boone
Angela Bowden
Aubrey Brainard
Peter Brasovon
Shawna Breitenstein

Jocelina Bridges
Sylvester Brooks
Shawna Brown
Patrick Buck
Amanda Budde
Molly Burt
Jared Byczka
Steven Campbell

Sarah Cardwell
Jonathan Carter
Jeffery Champion
Arlesia Clayton
Gary Clark
Jennifer Clark
Tameshia Clark
Aaron Clemens

Kecia Clenna
Jennifer Cootes
Martin Cole
Tristen Congress
Ledaniel Cotton
David Coughlin
Amanda Cousino
Philip Craft

Aarlean Crawford
Brian Cruz
Mariel Cruz
Kristina Curtis
Guille Dabu
Kristina Damjanoska
Mitchell Danford
Jarret Darling



WHAT MAKES YOU DIFFERENT FROM EVERYONE ELSE?

"I am not what people want me to be."

Chuck Woods



"I am nice to everyone regardless of what they think about me."

Melissa Duttweiler



"I am a leader not a follower."

David Coughlin



"My laid-back personality"

Ashley McNeil

"I try to be nice to everyone"

Amanda Moor



"I don't care about what people think about me"

Jeffrey Trama



Nicole Davidson
Karen Davis
Jared Dawson
Joseph De La Cruz
Deniel Dean
David Degard
Maria Del Real
Nicole Demeuse



Joshua Diaz
Joshua Diehl
Frederick Dobby
Angela Doering
Bradley Dow
Steven Dvax
Jennifer Duggins
Melissa Duttweiler



Kevin Dwyer
Jacob East
Mathew Eckstrom
Wessam El-Omar
Jor-Lyn Eller
Rebecca Evans
Jeanette Fabian
Michelle Farley



Kevin Farmer
Todd Ferguson
Ana Maria Fetea
Lisette Flores
Caitlin Floyd
Nicholas Fogarty
Alysia Fortney
David Frank



Joseph Frasca
Dannie Freeman
Michael Frost
Ronda Fruethling
Tamika Fultz
Lindsey Gabriel
Jennifer Gabrysiak
Elizabeth Gallinatti



WHAT'S ONE THING YOU WOULD CHANGE ABOUT YOURSELF?

"I would be a little bit taller"
Jake Appleton



"Nothing"
Jeffrey Abrego



"I would not be so shy"
Sean Sahacki



"I would have
longer hair."
Deanna Howard



"I would have thicker
hair"

Tameshia Clark



"I would have green eyes"
Kelly O'Keefe

Compiled by Kara Lux
and Lauren Strom



Damonique Garibay
Cassandra Garner
Christina Garza
Janet Gates
Robert Gilmore
Clifford Galan
Cynthia Gonzalez
Michael Gonzalez

Emily Graun
April Graves
Cara Gray
Derak Greenberg
Kristopher Greene
Rafe Grezovski
Jennifer Griffin
Stuart Guernsey

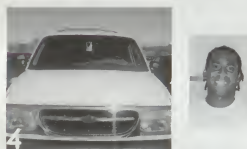
Jonathan Gutierrez
Jaclyn Hac
Abby Hacker
Kelly Haczor
Stephanie Hall
Janel Hamilton
Damara Hamlin
Lawrence Hargrave

Celia Hora
Brean Harris
James Harris
Krystal Harter
Amber Hauber
Sharon Hawkins
Bryan Head
Jennifer Heidler

Janarr Henderson
Demetrius Herley
Sabrina Hennessey
Dominique Henry
Alexander Hernandez
Gregory Hernandez
Jacob Hernandez
Michael Hill



CAN YOU MATCH THE JUNIOR WITH HIS CAR?



Here's the answers? See how many you guessed correctly!

1. Jennifer Coates 2. Martin Cole 3. Lindsay Warus
4. Emily Graun 5. Vince Torres

Schmekia Hinton
Matthew Hlajak
Trevor Hodges
Erin Holland
Timothy Holley

Deanno Howard
Michael Howard
Patrick Howard
Mark Huber
Dione Hughes

Megan Hulburt
Christopher Humes
Carl Hurd
Kathleen Hyzy
Henry Jackowski

Kyle Jackson
Stefanie Jackson
Clifford Jones
Tanita Jamison
Nikolai Janakievski

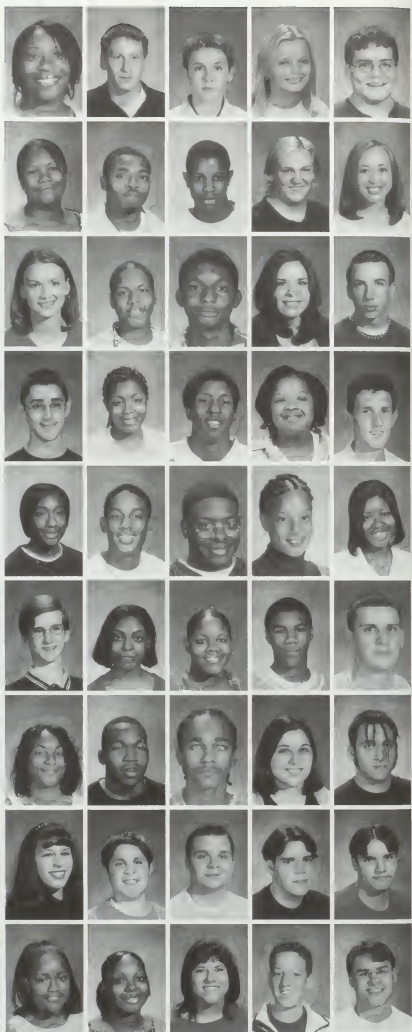
Nikisho Jefferson
Christopher Jeter
Corey Johnson
Dense Johnson
Mykiah Johnson

Parker Johnson
Jadeen Joiner
Paulo Jones
Joseph Jordan
Brian Jostes

Dikah Joyner
Ernest Joyner
Damien Julkes
Tia Karagionidis
James Kelly

Sarah Kennedy
Danavan Kepchar
Corey Kesler
Joshua Kester
Eugene Kezy

Shannon Kimbrough
Nakesho King
Kimbberly Kish
Shane Klor
Anthony Klippel





John Knezovich
Jeanette Koon
Matthew Krysa
Ryan Kuckl
Paul Kurczynski
Sheryl Kwell
Daniel Kwiatkowski
Bradley Lake

Geoffrey Lalic
Paulo Laarden
Michael Lawrence
Ronte Lee
Andrew Leicht
Joseph Leloup
James Leonard
Adam Lewis

Alexander Lewis
Dwana Lewis
Jerwan Lewis
Jacqueline Lipski
Craig Litac
Daniel Lopez
Mary Kate Lucas
Crystal Lumpkin

Kara Lux
Michael Mable
Demetrius Mabon
Temidaya Macarthy
Daniel Madura
Naomi Magallon
Emily Mandich
Steven Marcus

Gary Marek
Michaela Martin
Manuel Martinez
Yvonne Martinez
Demetria Massengill
Eve Matczak
Michelle Mathewson
Destiny Mathis

Rebecca McCarty
Heather McCoy
Desiree McDaniel
William McGhee
Wade McKinley
Jamie McLaughlin
Lauren McMullan
Kevin McMullin

Ashley McNeil
Shannon Means
Melissa Medanich
Donnie Melovski
Nicholas Miles
Mallorie Mitchell
Carl Montgomery
Amanda Moor

Michael Moore
Ricardo Moreno
Nicole Morias
Eric Morris
Keith Murphy
Nicole Murphy
Tara Murphy
Vangel Nacovski

Matthew Nadolski
Alisha Nalls
Tiana Nash
Robert Nava
Arinda Nava-Mccain
Claudia Nava-Mccain
Monique Navarro
Taryn Neal



Renee Neanover
Brian Nienhaus
Eric Nolan
Jason Nyangant
Kathryn O'Brien
Jason O'Hearn
Kelly O'Leefe
Kristina Ojeska



Nayan Olcum
Laura Orozco
Jaime Ortiz
Daniel Padberg
Jesus Palama
Angela Papamhalakis
Lanatica Parker
Fellcia Parks



Nisha Patel
Nicole Patterson
Megan Pawl
Gloria Peay
Jessica Peete
Cole Perkins
Christina Peschke
Patrick Petrovich



Pauline Petruich
Tammy Pfifer
Heather Phillippe
Michele Phillips
Arnel Pickett
Chad Pierce
Adam Pimental
Jennifer Ponce



Jim Porter
Katrina Parts
Takisha Partis
Aaron Powell
Rachel Powers
Kate Prentoki
Casady Pruitt
Joseph Quenett



Cira Ramas
Trevyana Ramas
Pedra Rangel
Jennifer Reid
Lisette Renta
Jerelynn Richards
Igor Ristevis
Deanna Rivera



Michele Rivera
Julia Roames
Mark Roberts
Melissa Robinson
Tyisha Roby
Breson Rodgers
Vanessa Rodriguez
Tarra Rogers



David Rooda
Elisabeth Rund
Antonio Sablan
Edward Sablan
Nicole San Miguel
Jessica Sanchez
Kate Santerama
Tita Savage



Theresa Schubert
Zachary Scott
Dyann Segovich
Kimberly Shapley
Daniel Sierra
Vangel Sikaski
Amanda Simpson
Michael Simpson





Sean Simpson
Justin Singer
Dole Skolba
Jennifer Slivka
Doris Smith

Jonathan Smith
Kasee Smith
Kaye Smith
Matthew Smith
Tiffany Smith

Sean Sahacki
Veronica Salivas
Laura Sopka
Aleksandar Sottraski
David Spallaras

Dane Spann
Nicole Sparger
Lindsay Spierling
Kenny Stancione
Fantaine Stegall

Rebecca Stephen
Lara Sterley
Adam Stetson
Anthony Stofko
Brittney Stofko

Matthew Stone
Aimee Street
Eric Street
Lauren Stram
Samantha Sullivan

Steven Sunidhrast
Gabrielle Sumling
Jeffery Surer
Jamie Sweeney
Kelly Swickard

Meagan Sylva
Shannon Szalo
Kathleen Szat
Katie Tanis
Richard Tonts

Anthony Taylor
Ashly Taylor
Christopher Terdoost
Paul Terrebonne
Giovanna Thomas

THE AVERAGE JUNIOR

GIRLS

Height: 5'4
Shoe size: 6
Favorite nail polish:
light blue
Favorite shampoo:
Pantene Pro V
Favorite Restaurant:
Olive Garden
Favorite Clothing
Brand:
American Eagle
Toothpaste: Crest
Make up brand:
Covergirl
Deodorant: Secret
Favorite car: BMW



Guys

Height: 5'11
Deodorant: Old Spice
Cologne: Tommy
Boxers or briefs:
Boxers
Favorite clothing
brands: American
Eagle and Nautica
Shoe size: 11
Toothpaste: Colgate
Shampoo: Suave
Favorite restaurant:
Hooters
Favorite car: Mustang



Sarah Thomas
Jasmine Tharion
Jenna Throw
James Tolhuizen
Lee Torrence
Vincent Torres
Jeffrey Trama
Christopher Trapane



Julie Trimble
Andrew Traupus
Shauna Tucker
La Chle Turner
Ryan Turner
Christine Uzelac
Kyle Vafiadis
Arlie Valdez



Sara Valdez
Jeton Valentin
Christopher Vargas
Laura Vaughn
John Vozanellis
Andriana Vega
Michael Wadley
Brandon Waldrap



Cheri Walls
Nicholas Walter
Lindsay Warus
Ernest Washington
Shawn Washington
Melissa Watson
Waricho Watthanapho
Rodney Waxton



Joshua Werth
Chantoe Wesby
Christopher Wesby
Martell White
Jessica Wieneke
Brittany Williams
Bryan Williams
Chaunteese Williams



Dee Williams
Erika Williams
Guinetta Williams
Melonie Williams
Tera Williams
Dorlana Wilson
Brittany Wiltgen
Clint Wimmer



Kara Wood
Brieanna Woods
Candice Woods
John Woods
Brad Woodward
Chardoo Wright
Jesse York
Luis Zamora



Brian Zelika
Jessica Zimmerman
Ryan Zurek



JUNIORS NOT PICTURED

Thomas Arraya
Casey Arvisa
William Bandy
Lean Brown
Nikolas Charleston
Elizabeth Elder
Marcus Freeland
Christopher Hadi
Nichole Handley
Corey Hawkins
Bridgette Heuss
Kevin Hubbard
Jemika Hunter
Charles Hurd

Jermaine Johnson
Jascelyn Marquis
Gabriel Martin
Christopher Matsen
Constantine Mileos
Jace Mizimikaski
Krystal Roberts Gonzalez
Myra Rodriguez
Wilton Sandifer
Patrice Selman
Adam Tegtmann
Justin Vanderkalk
Carlette Williams
Elexas Wise



Lindsay Wills, Trevy Ramos, Katie Obrien, Jake Appleton, Cassidy Pruitt, Laura Sopka, Christine Alaia, Kathleen Szat, Stephanie Bigelow, Brandon Waldrap, Schmekia Hinton, Zachary Scott, Kim Kish, Megan Hulbert, Janet Gates, Vangel Skasaki, Jacyln Hac, Jarret Darling, Tara Murphy, Kwame Asabere, Vince Tarres, Amanda Simpson, Kara Wood, Jeff Abrega, Michelle Farley, Demetritus Henley, Mike Mable



SOPHOMORES



From left to right, top to bottom: Jeannelle Marena, Randy Aleman, David Smith, Jacqueline Barsch, Megan Watson, Malory Himda, Kristina Milcevic, Ryan Miller, Catherine Stupic, David Uremavich, Jason Kendera, Earl McClain, Julie Mantemayor, Shane Elliot, Ashley Dallas, Amy Weding, and Megan Lacey



Jeannette Acuna
Gregory Adams
Jennifer Albright
Courtney Albricht
Randall Aleman
Ryan Allender
Tony Alvarez
Blair Amelse

Nadia Anderson
Nick Andreas
Dominic Angatti
Eliani Anton
Julian Arce
Tanesha Armstrong
Sahaf Azeem
Michael Bakos

Christine Barnack
Krysta Baron
Justin Barron
Jacqueline Barisch
Ayesha Basemore
Dee Juana Bass
Brandon Battle
Bernard Beard

Antonio Becerra
Ashley Berger
Rabyn Berry
Nicole Bielak
Stephanie Bishop
Tallah Blakey
Tiara Blakey
Miguel Blanco

Brittney Blue
Deandra Blue
Paul Bothwell
Oscar Bradley
Laura Brake
Gregory Branda
Christina Braylock
Samantha Brazeau

Stacey Breen
Samantha Breneman
Andre Brodie
Stephanie Brosch
Darneshia Brown
Jessica Brown
Karrian Brown
Cecelia Bruce

Gregory Bruce
Malorie Brummett
Jeremy Buhse
Stephen Burke
Jonathan Burum
Amanda Butler
Christine Bynum
Monika Cadilavsky

Cody Camp
Domenica Campos
Anthony Carl
Michael Cartwright
Heather Casady
Elizabeth Caton
Andrew Christopher
Joseph Clark

Matthew Colbert
Vincent Cole
Ronald Coleman
Tianna Coleman
Cecil Collins
Cedric Collins
Julie Collins
Brenton Connolly



WHAT WAS YOUR MOST

"At my birthday party I got dared to go skinny dipping, and then the cops pulled up and I got caught."

Katie Montalbano



"When I went on my first date with my boyfriend, I put salt instead of sugar in my drink."

Sandra Gjucinova



"On our band trip freshman year I fell asleep and everyone poured toothpaste and pop on me"

Kyle Patel



"I was running out to the bus and I slipped, so I tried to play it off, but then I ended up tripping again and falling"

Angie Delong



"I fell down in the parking lot of Hooters and in front of a bunch of guys. Then I could not get up because I kept falling down."

Melissa Velozco

"In my first dance recital I was a hoahoh girl and my skirt fell down in front of the whole audience"

Nicole Stompor

Brenda Conner
Lavashia Conner
Ashley Carray
Edward Cantreras
Clifford Cook
Lavell Cook
Todd Cooper
Natasha Copic

Kristina Cavarubias
Shaun Crittenden
Carlos Cuadra
Nicholas Cunningham
Joshua Curtis
Allison Czubik
Mark Daly
Ashley Dallas

Bradley Daniel
Michelle Danko
Anthony Davis
Christina Davis
Robert Davis
Jasmine Dayan
Lisa De La Rosa
Angela Delang

Kimberly Deming
Joseph Desi
Shannon Deutsch
Megan Diaz
Brittney Dieterle
Marka Djukic
Deshaunte Dominguez
Joshua Danahue

Elizabeth Danelson
Patricia Dooley
Julius Drake
Myaisha Dunlap
Keith Earl
Keith Eolan
Trevor Eich
Roleigh Enslin



EMBARASSING MOMENT?

"When I was baby-sitting a little girl, I was pulling her real fast in a wagon and ran into a parked car."

Carol Newell



"In 8th grade I was running up the bleachers and slipped and fell back down the bleachers."

Tiffany McCaully



"When I was going to sit down, a kid pulled the chair out from under me, and I fell and got a big bruise. My face turned beet red."

Rebecca Ternes



"My first day of middle school, I got bagged as soon as I got on the bus."

Brad Daniel



"I got paid to eat clay during ceramics."

Raven Ivey

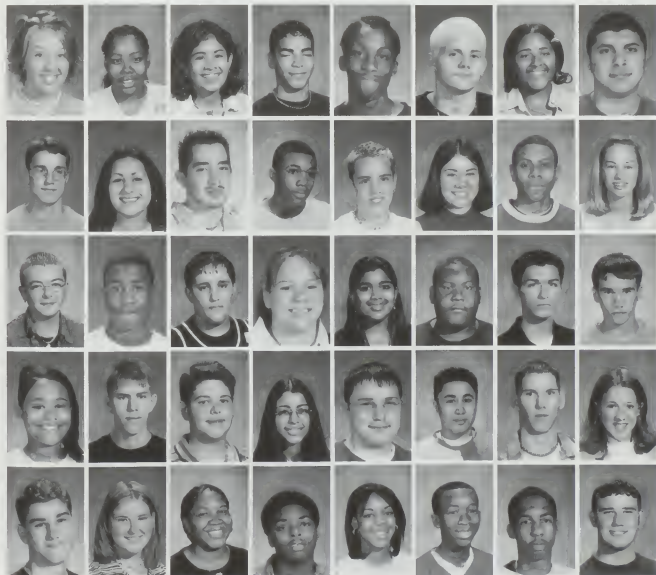


"When I was in the 3rd grade I got beat up by a girl."

Brandon Mosely



Compiled by Dave Uremovich



Terese Erickson
Sharon Flack
Joanne Flores
Joshua Flowers
Jason Ford
Brian Frovel
Aynsley Frost
Nicholas Garcia

Jason Gary
Aurora Garza
Christopher Garza
Onette Gatlin
Steven Gawel
Jody George
Jan-Pierre Gibbons
Ashley Gidley

Richard Gill
Jay Gober
Joshua Gonzales
Kelly Gouwens
Lisa Graf
Darrel Graham
Benjamin Groves
Jeffrey Gregory

Fabian Griffin
Lorne Grimmer
Rodney Grave
Sonya Guerrero
Joseph Gutierrez
Matthew Gutierrez
Justin Hall
Heidi Hammond

Jordan Hanning
Lindsay Harrell
Nikkyia Harrell
Brandon Harris
Kiyana Harris
Leroy Harris
Raphael Harris
Trent Harris

SUPER FRIENDS



BEST FRIENDS LOVE TO HANG OUT AND HAVE FUN

Many Sophomores may wonder "who are those cool people walking down the hall?"

The answer is Rebecca Ternes, Samantha Loo and Ricarda Hernandez.

Ricarda moved to Merrillville in 1998 from East Chicago. Soon after he befriended some local boys who he attended school with. After two years he went to high school, where he met Samantha Loo.

But when you meet Samantha Loo you'll definitely meet her side kick, Sophomore Rebecca Ternes. Together this trio is unstoppable.

They are the best of friends.

"When I'm with them, we hang out and go to movies," said Hernandez. "Having friends is what it's all about in high school," said Samantha Loo. "Without friends high school is a long journey."

Adam Milicevic

Patrick Horstad
Bridget Houbert
Tamara Haymon
Terrence Haynes
Ricarda Hernandez

Vanessa Hernandez
Emily Herzog
Jenna Hill
Suretha Hill
Jones Hinson

Travis Hodges
Amanda Holly
Mallory Hamala
Altha Hooks
Dannie Hopsan

Edward Howe
Matthew Huber
Charles Humphrey
Amanda Hunter
Dezmane Jackson

Melissa Jackson
Pavle Jankulaski
Kanesha Jennings
John Johnson
Randall Johnson

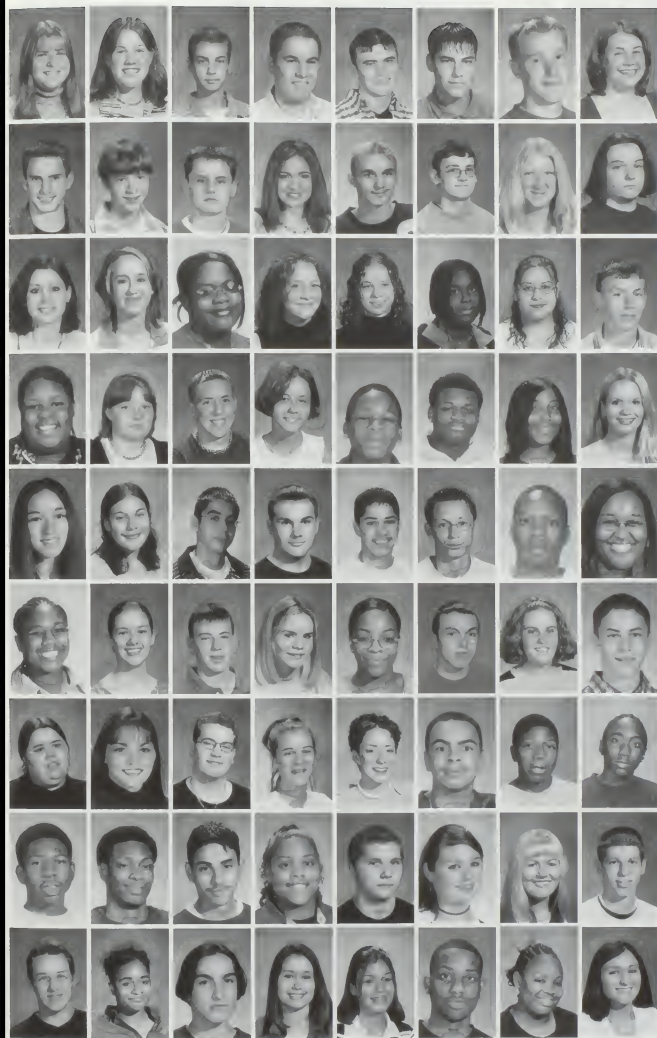
Tara Johnson
Tiffany Johnson
Zachary Johnson
Marshay Jolly
Ashley Jones

Brandon Jones
Derrick Jones
Destunda Jones
Lauren Jones
Marcus Jones

Brian Javanovic
Sumayyah Korim
Amber Kaste
Pauline Kotsuros
Gogondeep Kour

Nicholas Kozanis
Jasen Kendera
La Taya Kidd
Amber Kimbrow
Michael Kinsey





Jacqueline Kish
Jamie Kistinger
Jeffrey Kluga
Aaron Koehke
Phillip Kamisarak
Eric Kaneffall
Jesse Koon
Megan Kars

Carl Kartum
Joshua Kaselke
Patryk Kasaw
Kelly Kaurless
Ryan Korte
Brandon Krsak
Shay Kuzma
James Kuzminski

Laura Lackey
Megan Lacny
Jennifer Lacy
Nicole Lagala
Erika Larson
Arnetta Lawrence
Erica Leanos
Daniel Lee

Panya Lee
Rabecca Lee
Ian Leska
Christine Leus
Barshian Lewis
Brandon Lewis
Ashley Lafan
Rebecca Langacre

Samantha Loa
Cynthia Lopez
Dimitrij Lazevski
Richard Luehrs
Nicholas Luevano
Joseph Luttinen
Arman Lynam
Princess Gracie Madison

Kelly Magee
Hilary Marinch
Josh Marlow
Jamie Marsh
Lynece Marshall
Jason Martinez
Jennifer Mason
Michael Massengill

Michelle Matheny
Crystal Matson
Jason Mazalan
Courtney Mc Carty
Tiffany Mc Cadey
Earl Mc Clain
Jason Mc Clinton
De Jevon Mc Person

Patrick Mc Gee
Christian Mc Millon
Rica Merced
Angela Merritt
Jeffery Messinio
Courtney Milano
Kristina Milicevic
Brandon Miller

Ryan Miller
Laurie Mitchell
Noel Mofja
Christie Montemayor
Julie Montemayor
Jatin Moore
Tessa Moaring
Janelle Moreno

David Morrow
Brandon Masley
Christopher Munchenburg
Jennifer Mustafa
James Mysliwiec
Lisa Natywa
Kyle Naumowich
Christopher Nawracaj



Brian Nay
Raymond Neely
Eric Nelson
Carol Newell
John Naylor
Megan Nichols
Shawn Oskelley
Zachary O'Keefe



Ariel Onell
Cory Olivares
Christopher Ortiz
Ray Ortiz
Neil Osborne
Danielle Ovanek
William Overall
Nicholas Papan



Louis Panayt
Anthony Panega
Melissa Paniagua
Curtis Parker
Rebecca Parrish
Kristine Paskash
Kyle Patel
Marques Patrick



Lex Paz
Tabitha Pepper
Cristina Perryman
Emily Peters
Jessica Peterson
Tom Peterson
Carmen Pickett
Joseph Plukas



Jason Plys
Jonathan Palak
Adam Paling
Ashley Paling
Kathryn Patts
Jeremy Powell
Taleia Powell
Diana Prentoski



Justin Previs
Trimell Price
Alexandria Pride
Adam Punnea
Kevin Quirk
Glen Ramirez
Danny Rathburn
Cyleste Reed



Vince Reives
Joel Remaley
Andrea Resta
Analicia Ricard
Lindsay Richards
India Rivera
Colin Roberts
Dorian Roberts



Brandon Robertson
Erin Robinson
Nathan Robinson
Jeremiah Rodriguez
Sharise Rogers
Vincent Rogers
Terrilyn Rogina
Derek Rolian





Gregory Ross
Grace Rund
Jeri Russell
Amanda Rutledge
Kevin Sabernick

Scott Sabernick
Jeremy Solas
Nicole Solas
April Samuels
Rosalinda Sanchez

Tray Sondifer
Anayeli Santos
Virgina Savage
Jonathan Savin
Tara Schaob

Kristina Schoenecker
Nikisha Scott
Eric Severson
Scott Shelhart
Kelly Simanson

Deshana Slater
Bradley Sleeter
Aneal Smith
David Smith
Jason Smith

Jessie Smith
Kendra Smith
Rasetta Smith
Skyler Smith
John Snelling

Timothy Snelson
Albaion Snyder
Megan Sobierajski
Aaron Sokolowski
Lindsey Solamon

Derran Spencer
Nathaniel Sprague
Justin Stanley
Tara Stanley
Jeremy Stemple

Felicia Staffie
Nicole Stampor
Anthony Stout
Nathan Street
Sara Street

CLASS OFFICERS



Class of 2004 Officers are Jasmine Dayon, Jon Warus, Bernard Beard and Ed Howe.

LEADING CLASS OF '04 INTO THE FUTURE

Students often step up to be a class officer to become a part of something. People need someone to depend on, and for the Class of 2004 the class officers are the people for the job.

The President Ed Howe, Vice-President Bernard Beard, Secretary Jasmine Dayon and Treasurer Jon Warus meet to plan future events and make major decisions. The responsibilities are a big part of being an officer, and are not always fun.

"When I won the election I didn't think it was going to be hard, I thought everything would fall into place. After the first meeting reality basically set in. I knew from then on that I had a very big responsibility that had to be filled," said Howe.

Though all of the class officers have different ideas to benefit the class, they all seem to work together.

"In the beginning of a discussion everyone may disagree. The discussion may be slight or may be a no, but in the end we manage to pull out a really good decision that everyone can agree upon," affirmed Howe.

"It's not so much as taking on the responsibilities of secretary, but it's more about voicing my opinions," stated Dayon.

The officers agreed that the Class of 2004 would like to have the legacy of being the "most spirited class."

Warus said his responsibilities are "to keep track of money for our senior trip, prom, and other activities for our class."



Lamar Strickland
Daniel Strom
Cathryn Stupic
Jeffrey Sturm
Jodi Suggs
Christel Sumichrast
Elise Szany
Joseph Szczepka

Natalia Taleff
Nikia Tanna
Tanya Tansil
James Teamer
Rebecca Ternes
Alexander Thien
Kevin Thomason
Christopher Takaraki

Robert Tath
Dragan Trajkovski
Varvara Triklis
Sophia Tucker
Jhrome Tuggle
Randall Turner
William Urban
David Uremovich

Steven Vasek
Jalynn Vargas
Thomas Vechey
Edward Vega
Melissa Velazco
Stephen Veldman
Kimberly Verduzco
Raymone Vicerstaff

Antoinette Vinson
Antonio Vinson
Ryan Vurva
Anthony Wacholz
Melissa Wadley
Robert Wahlman
Marissa Walls
Joycelyn Walters

Andie Ware
Jon Wargo
Jonathan Warus
Jaznelle Washington
Megan Watson
Natalie Weall
Darrin Weaver
Amy Weeding

Patrick Westbury
Meghan Westphal
Ella Williams
Jerry Williams
Khalisa Williams
Lindsey Wills
Breeznee Wilson

Kathleen Wilson
Jessica Windbigler
Amanda Wojtylski
Courtney Woodfaulk
David Wright
Sandra Wright
Daniel Wydro
Jerred Yagelaki

Jeremy Yarrington
Joshua Yoldash
Samantha Yurechka
Zvon Zukula
Adam Zalewski
Jeffrey Zweig



SOPHOMORES NOT PICTURED

Ovid Brown
Tray Brown
Christopher Bryson
Bobby Budde



From left to right: Jeremy Salas, Justin Hall, Kristina Milcevic, Cody Camp, Tony Becerra, Ricardo Hernandez, Dominic Angotti, Samantha Loo, Jenna Hill, Lisa Graft, Erica Leanos, Jason Prys, Jamie Marsh, Brad Daniel, Kelly Kourtesis, Rebecca Ternes, Katie Montalbano, Jessica Brown, Todd Cooper and Mark Daly

Cynthia Bulanda
Joshua Carlisle
Christopher Delgado
Krysal Edgington
Ashley Gilbert
Sandra Gjucinova

Nicole Varona Gregory
Joseph Hall
Carmella Hinton
Michael Ibañe
Arthur Jones
Griffin Kennedy

Kevin Lampley
Nicole LaGala
James Lennon
Marcus Little
Jayson Mejia
Monica Mitro

Tyrone Page
Nicole Pettit
Rakeasha Robinson
Michelle Rodriguez
Bernique Salako
LaRahn Sanders

Mary Scherdt
Kristina Schoenacker
Nicholas St. Clair
Daneil Suggs
Raymond Taylor
Joshua Watt

Kenneth Walker
Adam Williams
Destine Young



FRESHMEN



72 PEOPLE

From left to Right: Christopher Sternberg, Maria Ramirez, Elizabeth Namanson, James O'Reilly, Elena Estes, Amalia Guzman, Alex Pride, Elizabeth Hall, Allison Dyer, Elena Estes, Ashley Krumrie, Matthew Crane, Trenika Williams, Priyanka Arshanapalli, Aftten Mraz, Dounique Gant, Anthony Wachholz



Sayid Abdul
Mehmet Acunul
Gina Adams
Jeremy Adamson
Taesio Alford
Lazarus Allison
Gillian Alvear
Ashley Ameise

Brady Anderson
Darren Anderson
Michael Andrews
Gina Angalli
Shana Anthony
Jesus Arce
Anton Archibale
Jessica Argue

Leslie Arredondo
Farah Arshami
Priyanka Arshanapalli
Daryl Arthur
Michael Ashe
Islam Baghdady
Donald Bailey
James Bailey

Danielle Baldassari
Jennifer Balch
Marissa Bankston
Brandon Barnes
Vincent Bertoch
Matthew Bigelow
Adam Billich
Andrew Binder

Michael Binder
Kimberly Bishop
Lareal Blackwell
Victoria Blanco
Benjamin Blondeel
Frederick Blue
Kevin Bokso
Dana Bolden

Michael Booker
Stephanie Boone
Melissa Borom
Anthony Bowen
Ashley Branhom
Megan Brava
Demarcus Brazier
Marian Bridges

Alyssa Brawn
Anesia Brawn
Antaine Brawn
Leslie Brown
Terrell Brown
Cady Bruce
Amanda Brunni
Megan Bruns

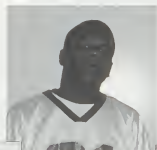
Jennifer Bruvsen
Den Bryant
Nolan Buck
Phillip Budde
Timothy Bugna
Justin Burgess
Daniel Burkus
Andrew Burt

Nicholas Bush
Margan Bynum
Jonathan Cabral
Sherry Cagle
Tiffany Cain
Brittney Caldwell
Davin Campbell
Sabrina Carlisle



WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST FEAR

"I was scored about how much homework and the teachers being really strict."
Gino Adams



"I'm scored that I'm not going to have any of my friends in my classes."
Kendall Maddox



"I was afraid that all the seniors would pick on me."
Christopher Mercado



"I was afraid that I'd get lost, and asking someone older for help, they'd point me in the wrong direction."
Jessica Argue



"The homework policy. It's a lot tougher than middle school."
James O'Reilly

"Not graduating. I want to be the first in my family to graduate high school."
Lozorius Allison

Christopher Carter
Jessica Carter
Keenan Carter
Andrew Caruana
Amanda Cast
Enrique Cerros
William Chandler
Gary Clenna



Julianne Coates
Mckinley Colfield
Katherine Coleman
Michael Coleman
Adriana Colon
Marissa Comanse
Heather Cooper
Melissa Corman



Christopher Cata
Justin Cata
Matthew Crane
Rickie Crawley
Lavonte Crook
Angelo Crosby
David Cuadra
Kyle Cuneo



Casey Czekala
Jardanna D'arazio
Amanda Daniels
Jessica Daniels
Dyan Darang
Jaymini Dave
Ted Davis
Tristan Dawson



Robert De Reamer
Steven Decker
Amanda Degard
Anthony Dennis
Barbara Denvil
Kathryn Diehl
Tiffany Dobay
Robert Dombrowski

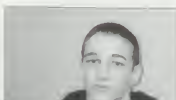


ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL?

"Trying to pass all of my classes."
Gabrielle Mays



"Not having any of my friends in my classes."
Anita Pejaski



"Having all of my friends attitudes change and having to sit alone at lunch."
Milarad Trkulja



"Getting kicked out of school for fighting"
Daug Kurczynski



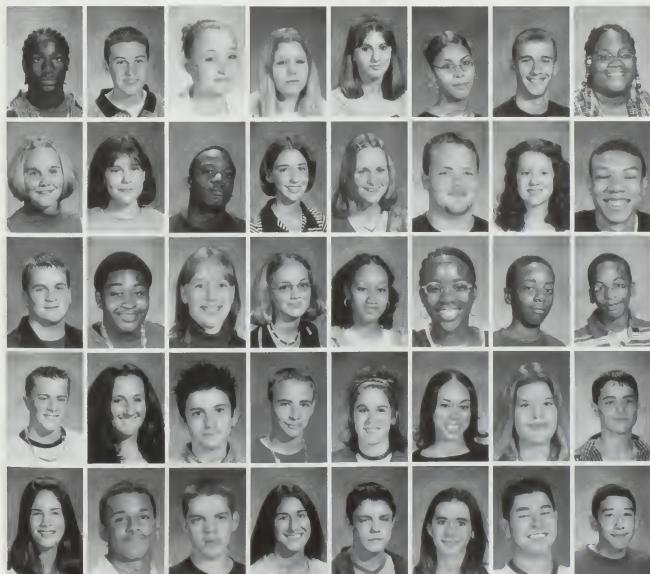
"I'm scared that I'm going to be put in my locker"
Samantha Wright



"That I'm not going to find my classes and not seeing anyone I know in lunch."
Sabrina Carlisle



Compiled by Kristyn Vallancourt



Michael Donaldson
Ryan Danohue
Britne Druckenmiller
Krystle Drvadelic
Allison Dyer
Chevon Earl
Shane Elliott
Naquita Elmore

Erin Ely
Elena Estes
D'andra Evans
Julianne Fabian
Maegin Farmer
Brandon Fatyal
Jenni Festa
Raffael Fester

Michael Finchum
Brandon Fisher
Stephanie Fisher
Brandy Fitzgerald
Erica Fizer
Kenyetta Fletcher
Andrew Ford
Kyle Forsee

Joseph Frank
Megan Frasca
Ryan Fravel
Shaun Freeman
Jaclyn Gabrysiak
Deuniqua Gant
Erin Garcia
Michael Garcia

Alexandra Garritana
Alexander Gates
Joseph Gay
Elena Gennelas
Matthew Glinore
Candice Gnilla
Joshua Gomez
Robert Gonzalez



DANIELLE NIKRIN



DANCING THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

Danielle Nikrin is known for her fun and outgoing personality. She is always laughing and seems to be having a good time. It is an extreme rarity to discover her without a smile on her face.

Danielle is a member of the MHS Dance Team. During football season she participated in the half time show with the Color Guard and the Marching Band. The show, entitled "Hook," was Danielle's favorite part of poms. Danielle was happy that she had the opportunity to be a part of the show, especially because it was the first time MHS had been involved in competitions.

When Danielle entered high school, she didn't get exactly what she had expected. Although grades have not proved to present any problems for her, Danielle is receiving more homework than she had initially thought.

"There is less time for lunch and talking to friends than I thought there would be," she said.

In her free time, outside of school and poms, Danielle enjoys playing rugby. She also likes to watch "Saturday Night Live" with her friends. She and her five best friends are nearly inseparable.

"We do everything together. That is what makes us best friends."

Rachel Hammond and Jennifer Sierra

Amber Goodman
Johnyce Goosby
Roland Graham
Jamie Gray
Ashley Green

Pierre Greer
Kymalee Gresh
Megan Grezovski
Franchon Griffin
Leah Griffin

Daniel Griffith
Brandon Grzybowski
Justin Grzybowski
Sara Grzybowski
Eric Guajardo

Molly Gurney
Jacquelyn Gurney
Annelo Guzman
Julian Guzman
Shawn Hahney

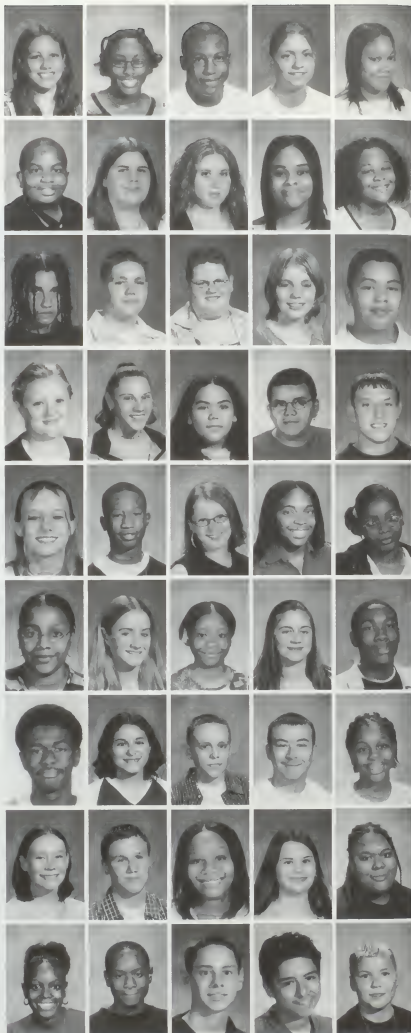
Melissa Hajvert
Brandon Hall
Elizabeth Hall
Brittany Hamlin
Amber Haney

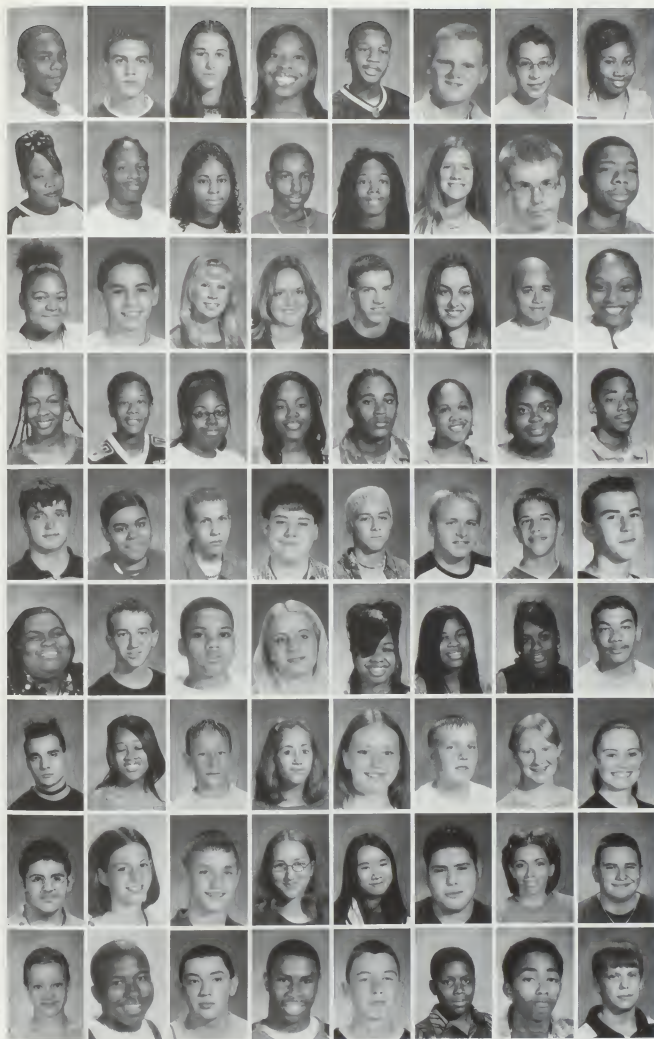
Britanie Haney
Christine Hanson
Candice Harbin
Kristin Hardman
Jonathan Hardy

Randell Hargrave
Beverly Hara
Christopher Hara
Fabian Hara
Tekoa Harris

Jacqueline Hartford
Matthew Hays
Kimberly Heath
Laura Heidler
Joaquana Hemphill

Danielle Henderson
Jason Henderson
Clayton Henry
Eder Hernandez
Justin Hess





John Hicks
Justin Higgins
Jennifer Highsmith
Ashley Hinchey
Gregory Hite
Jonathan Hmurovich
Brian Hoover
Kisha Horton

Candice Howard
Lorry Howard
Phyllis Howard
Dennis Howell
David Ki Hudson
Brittany Hush
Christopher Hunter
Jeremy Hunter

Raven Ivey
Alexander Jones
Ashly Jonovich
Kimberly Jonsen
Timothy Jelinek
Amber Jimenez
Anthony Johnson
Ashley Johnson

Deondra Johnson
Latoya Johnson
Mylah Johnson
Shoreia Johnson
Adrian Jones
Antoinette Jones
Ashley Jones
Charles Jones

Kevin Jordan
Michelle Jordan
David Julus
Michael Kouase
Sahson Korimi
John Kasper
Matthew Kasperon
Emmanuel Kozonis

Robbiann Keaton
John Kedzioro
Christopher Kelly
Jessica Kelly
Aundrea Kenon
Marshaena Kendrick
Teneko Kindred
Sean Kinsey

Timothy Kirolly
Taneisho Kirk
Brian Kiszka
Kassondro Klugo
Erin Knight
Adam Koarige
Rebecca Kohler
Katie Komisarck

Vladimir Kostovski
Ashley Krumrie
Douglas Kurczynski
Sarra Kwell
Loon Lo
Andres Lagunos
Tricio Lokotos
Gorrett Longhom

Alexandro Lopinto
Steven Lores
Dole Lee
Jeremy Lee
Thomas Leicht
Quinton Lewis
Vincent Ligon
Jonathan Little



Justin Little
 Ronald Lockhart
 Tanesha Logan
 Garrett Lohr
 Sara Lopez
 Brandon Loudermilk
 Evette Lowe
 Alisha Lucas



Michelle Luttinen
 Miyasha Mable
 Kelvin Mack
 Brenna Maddafferi
 Kendall Maddax
 Zack Mals
 Billy Manning
 Melonie Maple



Aaron Marcus
 Michael Marcus
 Neil Marek
 Danel Marler
 Kevin Marsh
 Dante Masan
 Scott Mathewson
 Joshua Mayo



Gabrielle Mays
 Ineke Mc Millan
 Mandy Madellin
 Christopher Mercado
 Stephanie Mesa
 John Metz
 Nicole Meyer
 Jeremy Mican



Anthony Miller
 Jason Mitchell
 Biljana Mizmakaski
 Whitney Mabley
 Katherine Mantalona
 Ann Marie Manteen
 Antone Montgomery
 Adam Moor



Adalya Moore
 Michael Moriarty
 Adam Morris
 Nikisha Morris
 Justin Marton
 Alffen Mraz
 Courtney Myricks
 Sneza Nacovski



Alexander Nadolski
 Robert Nance
 Michael Nason
 Heather Natwa
 Sergio Nava-Mccain
 Michael Neal
 Kristen Neese
 Gary Nelson

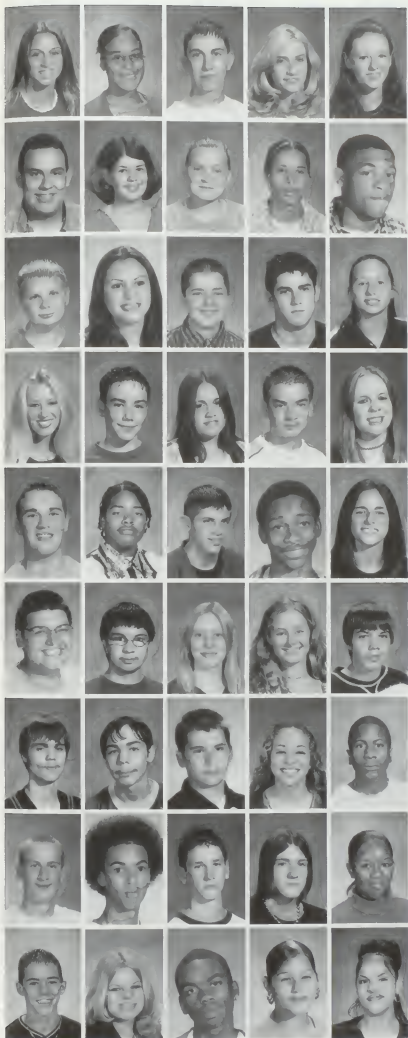


Stephanie Neville
 Danielle Nikrin
 Gregory Nicksch
 Elizabeth Noranson
 Lindsey Nasch
 Amy O'Reilly
 James O'Reilly
 Ashley Obregon



Aron Oklichich
 Nicole Olivares
 Kevin Olson
 Jeffrey Ortiz
 Ana Otano
 Veronica Page
 Ronald Parish
 Jamie Parker





Michelle Paskash
Lyndenna Patton
Matthew Paul
Kristi Pawlowski
Bannie Poya

Ronald Pedraza
Anita Pejaski
Jay Penley
Kevin Perkins
Bryant Person

Alexander Phy
Kristina Pimentel
Jace Pittler
David Plasencia
Meladine Plummer

Kristy Polster
Bryan Papa
Jennifer Porter
Aaron Potter
Tiffany Potts

Nathanael Powell
Sheridan Powell
Andrew Pruitt
Brandon Pruitt
Katelyn Pruitt

Joseph Porevich
Matthew Quintanilla
Holly Radford
Andrea Rainaldi
Keith Ralston

Robert Ralston
Steven Ralston
Jimmy Ramirez
Maria Ramirez
Melvin Reed

James Reitz
Brett Relphorde
Jonathan Reynolds
Deven Rhymer
Jasmine Rice

Shawn Rice
Amie Richard
Dell Riley
Elizabeth Rivera
Miriam Rivera

CHRIS MERCADO



CONTRIBUTING TO THE TEAM

People who know Freshman Christopher Mercado know him for his good attitude toward academics, as well as his love for football.

Mercado has plenty of enthusiasm for the sport. Mercado practices hard, and gives a hit or takes a hit without complaining. Even though he didn't get the chance to start this year he still was a big help to the team.

"I like football because it is a sport you can take all your frustrations out on," he said.

He said that his teammates are another reason he enjoys playing football. The most difficult thing about football for him is remembering the plays.

Beside football, Mercado enjoys going camping on the weekend.

Mercado came from Pierce Middle School. He entered high school thinking it would be easier than it is.

Honors Geometry and getting to class on time are two of the hardest things about MHS for him. English is his favorite subject.

Mercado said that after high school he plans to attend college and become a FBI agent.

Candace Kapranos



MELISSA BOROM



Melissa Borom says her brother James and cousin Lannie helped her learn to play basketball. She played on the JV and varsity teams during her freshman year.

SMALL GIRL, BIG TALENT

Following in her brother's footsteps for Freshman Melissa Borom is hard to achieve since her brother made a great impact on MHS.

Borom played on the JV and varsity girls' Basketball Team, which is an accomplishment in her first year of high school. Borom said her older brother James and cousin Lannie Randolph have been role models for her. She learned the practice techniques and skills of the game of basketball from them.

Borom said she was "happy, excited and surprised" when she made the team. Not only does she practice with the team, she also takes time out of her personal schedule to work on her basketball skills.

"Motivating me to work when I least want to has helped my skills expand to another level," said Borom. "My dad is my coach on and off the basketball court," added Borom.

If not for all her positive role models, Borom would not be the rising star she is today.

Off the court Borom is another girl trying to get through her freshman year of high school.

The saying, "Don't judge a book by its cover," has been heard many times before. Melissa Borom proves this saying right.

Brittany Cobb and Erin Morgan

Jeremy Roark
Jantoe Roberts
Ashley Robinson
Eric Robinson
Evelyn Robinson

Ramel Robinson
Carolyn Rodriguez
Patrick Rodriguez
Evangelino Raja
Stephanie Rouba

Erko Rouse
Amanda Ruiz
Brandon Rush
Crown Russell
Jacelyn Russell

Adam Sok
Lionel Sanchez
Brittany Sanchez
Zakeith Sanders
Kimberly Sandifer

Scott Santalk
Virgil Savage
Brendan Schofer
Meghan Schofer
Joseph Scatt

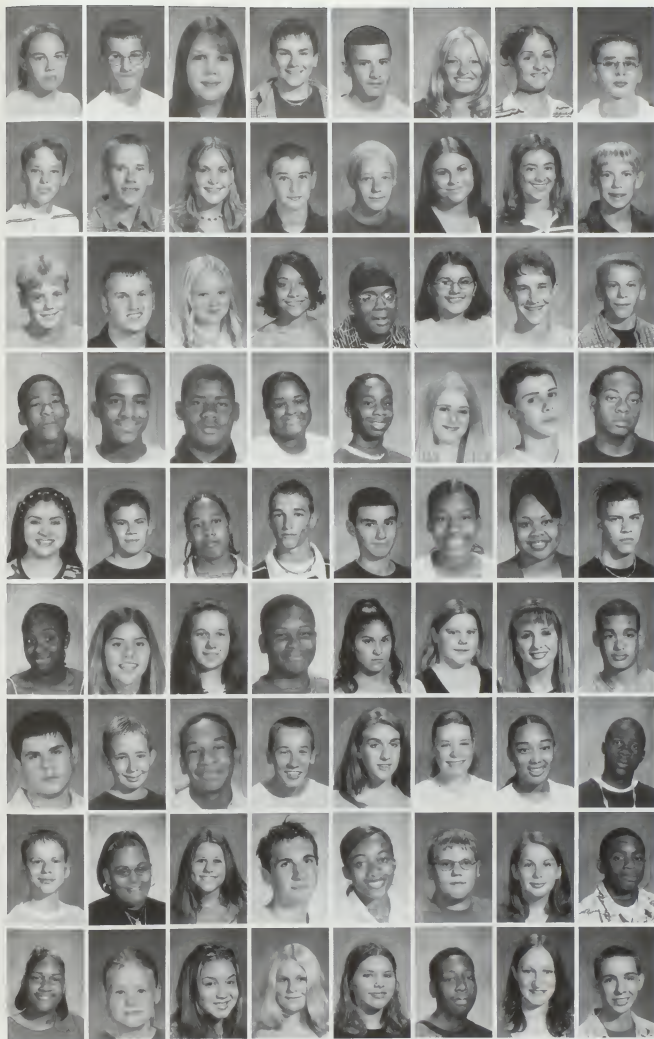
Stephanie Sepulveda
Brandon Sharp
Lindsey Sharp
Arnone Shelby
Kiero Shelton

Nicole Shudick
Cosey Sieb
Melissa Siendki
Joshua Silva
Kristopher Simonovskis

Stephanie Simpson
Jessica Sims
Brett Skarupa
Amanda Slaughter
Thomas Slivka

David Smith
Jason Smith
Johnny Smith
Marques Smith
Steven Smith





Kimberly Sniderwine
Joseph Sabek
Tammy Salch
Matthew Sopka
Zachary Sowash
Katherine Spallaras
Alex Spangler
Erik Spila

Jeffrey St. Martin
Steven Stackert
Megan Stacks
Joshua Stanek
Jeffrey Steizer
Courtney Stephens
Nicole Steriowski
Christopher Sternberg

Michael Stevens
Kyle Stewart
Katie Siles
Sable Strickland
Chris Sturdivant
Marjana Sulek
John Summers
Dustin Tarr

Reginald Taylor
John Thomas
Kendall Thomas
Rachael Thomas
Carl Thompson
Jenna Thornley
Jake Thorpe
Keftan Tinsley

Claudia Tirada
Mark Tokarski
Edward Torres
Mikael Trkula
Rita Trpkaski
Chaquilla Tucker
Taura Turner
David Underhill

Brittany Ursey
Kimberly Uzelac
Kimberly Vanek
Thomas Vaulx
Andrea Vela
Stacey Veldman
Valerie Veltre
Trevor Vogwill

Nicholas Vargias
Michael Vulpitta
Lucia Wade
Cory Wagner
Elena Walkovich
Stephanie Waldron
Ashley Walker
Kear Walker

Benjamin Warman
Jala Warner
Kristine Warshall
Joshua Watkins
Rachel Weatherington
Paul Weed
Jessica Werth
Dak Darryl West

Kenyetta West
Michelle Westbury
Adriana White
Brandi White
Kimberly White
Shannon White
Trisha Whittemore
Mark Wieneke



Matthew Wieneke
Justin Wilderness
Jason Wildes
Shakiya Wiley
Alberta Wilkerson
Wilbert Wilkerson
Aaron Williams
Brian Williams

Christopher Williams
Danell Williams
Justin Williams
Lagina Williams
Natassia Williams
Shana Williams
Trenka Williams
Ryan Willis

Devin Wilson
Kendra Wilson
Genevieve Wirtz
Keegan Wise
Jennifer Wiser
Shaun Wood
Bart Woodward
Bernard Warham

John Wright
Samantha Wright
Curtis Wyatt
Antarios Yiatras
Antane Young

Melissa Young
Eva Zaleski
Alyssa Ziller



FRESHMEN NOT PICTURED

Not pictured:
Erica Brack
Brian Burgess
Shawn Clark
LaPashia Dawns
Jonathan Edwards
Felicia Graves
Charlicia Hardiman
Jonathan Harrell
Shenell Haynes
Aaron Hebert
Ashley Heston
Steven Hard
Pecora Johnson
Tiffany Jones
Jonathan Kelley
Celesta Kimble
Daran Knox
Benita Madry

Kelle Mann
Ashley McCoy
Julius McGhee
Jason Michelin
Michelle Morris
Pete Pena
Cheekera Pfeiffer
David Prentaski
Marnetta Richardson
Aneta Sikaska
Laura Slavik
Centresha Smith
Kimberly Sneiderwine
Jonathan Starkey
Anthony Travline
Caressa Upchurch
Ashley Wadley-Branham
Mathew Walker
Laurice West



From left to right: Kyle Loudermill, Michael Vulpitta, Andrea Rainaldi, Boys' Soccer Players, Andrea Rainaldi, Priyanka Arshanapalli, Samantha Wright, Michelle Buckner, Kimberly Jansen, Priyanka Arshanapalli, Ashley Krumie, Erin Knight, Nicole Shuck, Samantha Wright, Brian Kiazka, Kristine Warshall, Alexander Gates, Michael Vulpitta





MICHAEL J. BERTA JR.
ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT
CURRICULUM/
PERSONNEL



SCOTT ROSENBALM
VICE PRESIDENT



**THOMAS G.
BAINBRIDGE**
SECRETARY

RONALD L. PRICE
ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT
BUSINESS AFFAIRS



MARK S. LUCAS
PRESIDENT



GALE GUYER
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT
CURRICULUM/
PERSONNEL



RONALD J. MAYERSKY
MEMBER



DONNA STATH
MEMBER



DR. ANTHONY LUX
SUPERINTENDENT

Sitting down to put a puzzle together is, at first glance, a daunting task. None of the pieces seem like they will ever fit together. Spreading out all of the various pieces creates an immediate feeling of being overwhelmed and the thought that making a complete picture out of these different parts is an impossible task.

I think that the start of high school is a lot like the start of a big puzzle. Everybody knows that growing into young adulthood involves a lot of different pieces, a lot of different elements that seem like they will never come together. The start of high school includes pieces of life's puzzle like knowing how to study, knowing what kinds of activities to get involved in, knowing who your new friends will be, knowing how to find your way around the high school and whether it's possible to get to class on time, and even wondering what you will possibly do after high school.

Four years later everyone's amazed that somehow, some way all of those pieces have come together into a pretty complete picture. Maybe not every question that's ever been asked has been answered completely. And there are still more questions for which to find answers, but overall, things do make a lot more sense. The pieces of life's puzzle fit together pretty well into making a good picture of who you are and what you want to do. From now on, it's just a matter of believing in yourself and moving ahead to solve the next puzzle. As a graduating senior you've already solved the big puzzle of high school. You've put a lot of pieces together already. Congratulations! Good Luck in all of your future endeavors. And remember, that just as you've done already, the pieces of your future will come together to make a wonderful picture.

Anthony Lux
Superintendent



ADMINISTRATION



JANICE MURRAY-MINOR
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



MICHAEL KRUTZ
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



JOHN JENNINGS
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



DAVID DEMUTH
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

It's hard to believe that just a short four years ago, the class of 2002 was just entering Merrilville High School. Many felt overwhelmed with the prospect of coming to a school many times larger than the middle school, with a multitude of academic and athletic activities. Few believed then, four years later they would become increasingly mature young adults ready to step off the foundation of high school into their adulthood.

The challenges that lie before you during these days, as our country tests its resolve, are great. All of the skills and strengths you have developed throughout your high school years will be called upon as you enter the next phase of your life. Regardless of your ultimate career destination, the foundation you have received at Merrilville High School will remain with you all of your life. This includes the friendships you have made and the teaching and coaching you have received. We are grateful and proud we have had the opportunity to educate you and be part of your life. We appreciate the active participation of your parents and extended families in assisting you to reach your graduation day.

It is a great pleasure that as Principal, I have the opportunity to watch you grow into the fine young adults that you have and will become. I have watched some of the pieces of your life come together in a meaningful way during your senior year. You will continue to piece everything together as you make your way through the many years ahead. On behalf of our outstanding administrative and instructional staff, I wish you god-speed in your journeys ahead.

Mark B. Sperling, Ed.D.
Principal



MARK B. SPERLING, Ed.D.
PRINCIPAL



FACULTY & STAFF



Jennifer Albana
Special Ed



Beverly Ambrazak
Business



Janet Anderson
Art



Jae Atria
Science



Michelle Barker
Science



Amber Baran
Social Studies



Dan Baran
Social Studies



Betty Lou Barsley-Marra
Family/Consumer Science



Tary Bartalamea
Physical Ed



Amy Beckham
Athletic Director



Carrie Bedwell
English



Robert Bedwell
Social Studies



Debbie Belleville
Family/Consumer Science



Bob Bergesan
Business



Mary Ann Bertram
Foreign Language



Wade Baise
Math



John Bradford
Music



Alan Branda
Math



Daris Brown
Special Ed



Manica Burgas
Foreign Language



Viveca Carter
English



Ryan Cartwright
Art



Carletta Cheek
Special Ed



Mark Ciesielski
Broadcast Journalism



Andrea Clinkenbeard
Science



Jeff Clinkenbeard
Science



Kimberly Careman
Special Ed



James Dailey
Tech Ed



Amy Davis
Music



Barb Dlahuy
Special Ed



Nancy Draper
Math



Miles Dunscombe
Science



Lori Dust
Physical Ed



James East
Social Studies



Richard Ebler
Social Studies



Roger Emig
Music



Sharon Estes
English



Jerry Farrar
Social Studies



Tom Feeney
Math



Diane Firme
English



Edie Fisher
English / Foreign Lang



Sheldon Floyd
Social Studies



Josh Frizzell
Special Ed



Drew Furness
Guidance Director



Rick Garner
Tech Ed



Beth Gillespie
Math



Judy Hain
Guidance



Courtney Hardin
English



Marianne Harrison
Special Ed



Michael Hoffman
Math



Randall Horka
Special Ed



Sean Hudson
Physical Ed



Rick Hurey
Tech Ed



Bill Idzior
Math



Tim James
Math



Curtis Johnston
English



Jim Johnston
Tech Ed



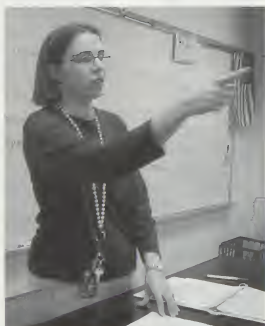
Lee Johnston
English



Craig Jones
Special Ed



Kathy Jones
Special Ed



New to Merrillville High School this year, Ms. Elizabeth Kenyon teaches Biology and Environmental Science. She is a graduate of Purdue University Calumet and a four-year veteran of teaching.



Being an all around educator is part of the job for Mrs. Michelle Wilson, who doubles as an IRE facilitator for Pre-Algebra classes. Mrs. Wilson has been teacher for eight years and six of those years she has taught at Merrillville High School.

FACULTY & STAFF



Jerrold Kasarda
English



Shelley Kovais
Family/Consumer Science



Barbara Kaby
English



Rasellen Kazel
Special Ed



Danny Lackey
Guidance



Maggie Lain
Health & Safety



John Lamberise
English



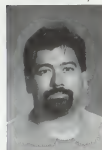
Judy Le Duc
Business



Connie Lewis
English



Dayle Lewis
Special Ed



Luis Lapez
Science



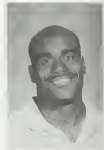
Maria Lapez
Guidance



Bob Mackovyak
Tech Ed



Diane Mandan
Social Studies



Wilber Milhouse
Physical Ed



Debbie Manix
English



Sally Margan
Science



Patrick Mulay
Social Studies



Bob Myers
Music



Steve Nichols
Social Studies



Gail Nicolini
Math



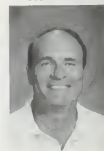
Jennifer Nicksch
Math



Andy Nicksch
Business



Debby Onika-Brazys
Science



Rick Parker
Special Ed



Brian Past
English



Maryetta Petras
Science



Greg Pierson
Physical Ed



Josefina Poropat
Foreign Language



Joe Pateet
Media Center
Director



Dalores Paxan
School Nurse



Steven Prather
Tech Ed



Terry Pratt
Art



Tania Price
Physical Ed



Teresa Practer
English & Journalism



Randy Qualtzo
Tech Ed



Janis Qualtzo
Athletic Director



Melinda Reinhart
Music



Shirley Renner
Guidance



Elizabeth Renta
Special Ed



Bonnie Sanders
Foreign Language



Shawna Schiralli
Special Ed



Violet Schmuck
Math



Elissa Schubert
Business



Beverley Seaver
English



Mary Shoshoo
Math



Irene Spira
Foreign Language



Debra Stafford
Math



Craig Stafford
Social Studies



Scott Staley
Math



Margaret Stallings
Family/Consumer Science



Jean Stanford
English



Evelyn Steiner
Foreign Language



Michelle Sulich
Guidance



Melissa Szczerba
Special Ed



Dave Teeer
Tech Ed



Richard Terpstra
English



James Vermillion
Science



Carol Van Behren
Family/Consumer Science



Sue Whitlock
Special Ed



Sally Williamson
Science



Madeline Wilson
Foreign Language



Jeffrey Yeltan
Science



Dave Zimmerman
Business



An alumnus of MHS, Mr. Zac Wells teaches United States History, History of War and World Geography. Mr. Wells is also the coach of the Baseball Team.



Athletic Office Staff

Debbie Willson Nicki Juska



Day Maintenance Staff

1st Row: Angie Knezevic, Joy Varela 2nd Row: Elton Hickman, Jim Krantz, Joe, Joe Juniso



Guidance Office Secretaries

1st Row: Cheryl Albers, Elaine Hyalinger, Tahnee Jones, Darlene Bowers
2nd Row: Vicki Paulnitz, Sharon Jones



Main Office Staff

Debbie Klippel, Lynn Herrero, Carol Hagon, Melonie Scott



Media Center Staff

1st Row: Donna Phelps, Alice Kerr, Mary Scheffer 2nd Row: Joe Poteet





Night Maintenance Staff

1st Row: Nisa Milosavcevic, Milica Sormaz, Dragica Kovacevic, Donna Rodriguez. 2nd Row: Robert Fernandez, Charlie Stanford, Helen Moravsky, Nada Kolar, Zoran Stefanovic. 3rd Row: Timothy Cooper, Mark Robinson, Paul Moravsky.



Security Staff

1st Row: Ron Thomas, Stephanie Veal, Ryan Miller. 2nd Row: Larry Juzwiski, Daryl Bowie.



Student Services Staff

Judy Vassallo, Cheryl Ursery, Marilyn Thien.



Teachers' Aides

Laura Fries, Sue Gaines, Sandra Schollers.



Cafeteria

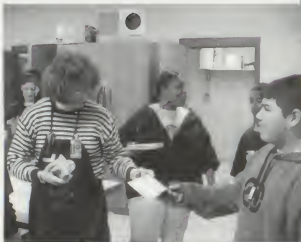
Taking a group picture of the women who work in the cafeteria proved to be difficult this year. Instead, we sent our photographer into the cafeteria to snap a photo of Doreen Novotny and Beverly Williams. They are just two of the patient crew in the lunch room who feed the students each day.



1 2

4

3



5

7

6

1. In the hallway, Junior Vangel Sikoski studies intensely. 2. During woods class Sophomore Brandon Harris and Freshmen Shawn Clark and Jonathan Harrell create a masterpiece. 3. In one of the many science classes, Senior Tim Stoner, Junior Rebecca McCarty, Junior Bryan Head and Sophomore Jenny Mustafio pay close attention to the teacher. 4. In ceramics class Senior Adam Guajardo passes on a guidance request to Ms. Janet Anderson. 5. Steering the wood block, Senior David Perry shapes a project. 6. Playing the tunes, Senior Chio Chiong creates harmony. 7. After receiving processed clay, Senior Joe Llano waits patiently.

Academics, academics, academics. What a massive piece for our future. Our days in the Merrillville schools are jam-packed with all types of academics. It begins in kindergarten and ends for some here. Others pursue degrees in college. Half of us love the challenges; the others fight it every step of the way.

So many new and different things are available to high school students. Whether its shop, art, music, drama, computer technology or fitness class, or perhaps being an office aide, some special activity helps us get through the day. Everything that we do here brings us one step closer to success.

Some of us may have a position in the top ten of our class. Others find themselves in the middle or at the bottom. But that doesn't say everything about us. It can't define us. High school is the first of many pieces in our lifetime. We still have many more pieces to find to assemble the puzzle that will shape our lives.

Places to go and things to see await. Going forward is the only direction. As long as we use the knowledge and experience we compiled here at MHS, we will go on. We will not falter. High school is the stepping stone that gives us our chances to find the pieces and create our stories.

Starting early.
In classes all day. Learning new things.
Where will we go from here?

Going FOR THE ■■■■■ Gold

Special (adj.) 1. Surpassing what is common or unusual; exceptional. 2.
a. Distinct among others of a kind; b. Primary; chief.
Olympics (adj.) *Sports* 1. Of or relating to the Olympic games.

By Brittany Cabb

Like any other athlete, Senior Amanda Rysiewicz enjoys training to be her best in bowling and track and field.

Twenty-five of Merrillville's special athletes traveled to different locations to compete. Among the participants, Merrillville had six winners in the bowling event alone. Junior Erin Caughlin and Senior Michael Janeczko both received fourth place, and Senior Edward McCallum came out with the bronze metal. Coming out on top were Freshman Ryan Willis and Senior Tim Wirtz, who each received the silver bowling metal, while Junior Amanda Jasleyn captured the gold.

Special Olympics allows handicap athletes to compete in a variety of sports. Children who are mentally challenged or confined to a wheelchair are allowed to participate.

Supporting them all the way, Mrs. Melissa Szczerbo cheers the kids on at every competition.

Mrs. Szczerbo has been teaching for 25 years and has been the Special Olympics coach for 10.

She always has a fun time with the kids at the Olympics. She said she is proud to see the program expanding on many levels.

"I try to teach life skills and I am hands-on with the students," Mrs. Szczerbo explained.

Mrs. Szczerbo also said that she was proud to see the Olympics expand throughout the whole area, not only in Merrillville.

"I was glad to see so many teams participate this year. There were 500 or 600 people there, and all of Stardust in Merrillville was filled."

Teams compete all around the state, and kids from the ages of 9 to 99 participate. Kids start participating in elementary school.

As a volunteer for Special Olympics, she has seen growth among both the kids and the event. She is only one of many teachers, parents and community volunteers who help organize the competition.

Following through on her roll, Senior Kathy Barnes yells at the ball to go toward the pins. Barnes used a special bowling ramp. After she was handed the ball, she positioned herself and the ball, while throwing it down the ramp.



After getting a strike, Junior Steven Gaines looks to his teammates and smiles. Gaines took third place, and took home the bronze medal, much to his delight.

"Competing against other people
is my favorite thing
about the Olympics."

Senior Amanda Rysiewicz





After throwing the ball, Senior Ed McCallum turns to his teammates and coach for words of encouragement. Participating in his final Olympics, McCallum received a bronze medal in bowling.

Showing her disdain after not picking up the spare, Senior Amanda Rysiewicz goes back to sit down with her teammates. Rysiewicz enjoys taking part in bowling and track in the Special Olympics.



The Special Olympics took place at the Stardust Bowl in Merrillville. All Area One teams, which are teams from five counties in Northwest Indiana, participated in the Olympics, and 500 to 600 people took in the activities at Stardust.

Quotable Quote



“The program has grown tremendously over the years.”

Mrs. Melissa Szczerba

Getting A SECOND Chance

Alternative (noun) 1a. The choice between two mutually exclusive possibilities. b. Either of these possibilities.

School (noun) 1. An institution for the instruction of children or people under college age. 2. An institution for instruction in a skill or business.

By Megan Brown

Has anyone ever wondered what happened to fellow classmates after they were expelled? One day they're sitting across from their fellow students in Chemistry and the next day they're gone. Do they get to sleep in while other students have to get up early for school or are they looked up somewhere for a way? Well those two theories can be put to rest because neither of them are true.

After the students are expelled, they are given the option of going to Alternative School and keeping up with school work so they don't fall behind or repeating the grade again during the next school year.

"When most students are given the choice they usually choose Alternative School," said Mr. John Jennings. One of the other consequences of being expelled is the revocation of the driver's license for three to six months, depending on how long the student attends Alternative School.

On the first day of Alternative School, students are introduced to their teacher, Mr. Robert Bedwell. He hands out assignment calendars that set out

what they'll do on a certain day and when everything is due. English, Science, History, Math and Life Skills are some of the classes that students can take as they go through their semester of Alternative School. With the exception of foods and metal/woods classes, Alternative School offers classes available in normal day school.

"I'm glad I went to Alternative School because if I hadn't I wouldn't have been able to still be kept up with the rest of my classmates," Sophomore Rich Luehrs said. Alternative School helps make sure students don't fall behind the rest of their classmates and helps them stay on track so they can graduate on time.

"I liked Alternative School and Night School a little better because it's more relaxed and you can work at your own pace," replied Senior Alan Gima who's attended day school, Alternative School and Night School.

When students turn in their work for a grade and they earn a score of 80 percent or higher, then they have passed the assignment. If they earn below 80 percent, then the students have the assignments returned and they would have a chance to fix mistakes.



Finishing up an assignment, Sophomore Miguel Blanco concentrates on his work. The quiet atmosphere of Alternative School helps students study better.

"Alternative School gives the student a chance to make a positive out of the negative, so it's a great opportunity for students who have been expelled."

-Mr. Robert Bedwell





Getting help while in Alternative School isn't all that hard. Junior Tameshia Clark gets help from Mr. Robert Bedwell, director of the Alternative School program.

Staring down at her assignment, Sophomore Julie Montemayor tries to work out a problem. Students in Alternative School are offered almost all of the same classes they would be offered in day school.



Why do you like **A**lternative School?



"I like **A**lternative and **N**ight School a little better because it's more relaxed and I can work at my own pace."

Senior **Alan Gima**



National HONOR ■■■■■ Society

Honor (noun) 1. High respect, as for special merit; esteem. 2a. Good name; reputation. b. A source or cause of credit. 3a. Glory of recognition; distinction. b. A mark, token, or gesture of respect or distinction.

Society (noun) 1a. The totality of social relationships among human beings. b. A group of human beings broadly distinguished from other groups by mutual institutions, and a common culture. 2. An organization or association of persons engaged in a common profession, activity, or interest.

By Kristina R. Milicevic

In a packed auditorium on April 21, 2002, the National Honor Society held their annual Induction Ceremony. The 48 reigning members welcomed the 56 inductees with open arms. Speeches about scholarship, leadership, service and character gave the students a sense of pride and

"I pledge myself to uphold the high purposes of the National Honor Society to which I have been selected. Striving in every way by word and deed to make its ideals the ideals of my school and of my life."

accomplishment. After the ceremony, the members and their guests enjoyed refreshments in the Senior Citizens Center.

The NHS is one of the most prestigious societies of Merrillville High School. Maintaining a 3.5 grade point average and excelling in scholarship, leadership, character and service are some of the requirements to be in the NHS. Community service is a major part of being a member. This year, the members participated in the Northwest Indiana

Special-Ed Cooperative Walk and tutored the Merrillville Elementary students in ISTEP remediation programs. The members also participated in the Zap-

A-Snack fundraiser.

Sponsoring the NHS is a big job, but Mrs. Margaret Stallings knows how to handle it. "This is my second year doing this and not much has changed since last year," said Mrs. Stallings. Although new members and new officers surfaced, the values and the ambiance stayed the same.

The officers this year were all seniors. Daniel Lexsa served as President, Marissa Vawter and Erin Wolfe as Co-Vice Presidents, Chia Chiang as Secretary and Katherine Czubik as Treasurer.

"Instead of re-voting, we decided to share the position," said Wolfe, about being Co-Vice President with Vawter.

"I consider the NHS a highlight of my high school career because of the sense of accomplishment achieved as I near the end of the year."

-President Senior Dan Lexsa





After the induction ceremony, inductees, existing members and parents celebrated in the Senior Citizens Center with cookies, snacks and drinks. Students and parents chatted about the morning and plans for the future.

Before speaking to the new inductees about the importance of leadership, Senior Julie Lesniak ignites the candle in procession with the ceremony. Lesniak is actively involved in NHS as well as several other activities, and leadership is nothing new for her.



As they await the start of the ceremony, Principal Dr. Mark Sperling, Senior Erin Wolfe, Senior guest speakers Jonathan Jasinski, Julie Lesniak, Kevin Sager, Lisa Poles and the NHS President Dan Lewis prepare to do their part in the evening. The ceremony lasted less than 20 minutes, but the inductees still felt the honor of initiation.



With a smile and a friendly wave, Lisa Poles and Erin Wolfe, both NHS members, offered a warm welcome to the new inductees. Erin Wolfe presented the certificate to this year.

What are the members like this year?



"The group of kids this year are very conscientious, reliable and nice."

Sponsor **Mrs. Margaret Stallings**

National Honor Society 99



If It Says AP, THEN IT'S ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ For Me

Advanced [adj.] 1. Highly developed or complex. 2. Being at a higher level than others. 3. Ahead of the times; progressive. 4. Far along in course or time.

Placement [noun] 1. a. The act of placing or arranging. b. The state of being placed or arranged. 2. The finding of suitable accommodation or employment for applicants.

By Tammy and Sammy Grzesik

Advance Placement classes open a variety of opportunities for students.

"I took AP Biology because it will help me through the first year of college," said Senior Jayson Villars. "The class is very interesting. We get to dissect many things."

Our school offers several different AP classes such as physics, chemistry, biology, psychology, English, calculus and history.

AP classes prepare students for college. The teachers and curriculum are both at the university level. Many students take AP courses as juniors, but some people don't think students should take an AP class until they are seniors. Mr. Miles Dunscombe, the AP Chemistry teacher, said, "Students only in the twelfth grade should be allowed to take an AP course because it is a nice base to move on to college."

The concepts taught in a regular class and its corresponding AP class are the same, but the AP class goes into more depth. For example, a regular biology class provides the foundation so that students have a basic understanding of the life science, but AP Biology builds upon that basic knowledge to give students more depth and material to study.

At the end of the year, students have an opportunity to take an AP test to try to earn a college credit. The highest score is a five. A three is considered passing.

"The language test is free and the literature test cost \$78," said AP English teacher Mr. John Lambersie. "Depending on different colleges' standards, students may be able to get an entire year off based on their AP test score."

This could save students money and lower their stress levels during the first year of college.

In their Advanced Placement Biology class, Seniors Heather Huish and Tim Randolph take a test to find their blind spots. Students enjoyed this lab as they learned new facts about their eyes.



Safety glasses and all. Junior Jessica Zimmerman waits for lab data to print. In the AP Chemistry class students completed a lab that compared two sets of pH data.

In his head, Senior Dathan Echols searches for the answer. His frustrated face proves just how challenging AP classes can be.

"I think AP classes give students a chance to learn a great deal in subjects they have a strong interest in. Students often take an AP class that matches their career interests."

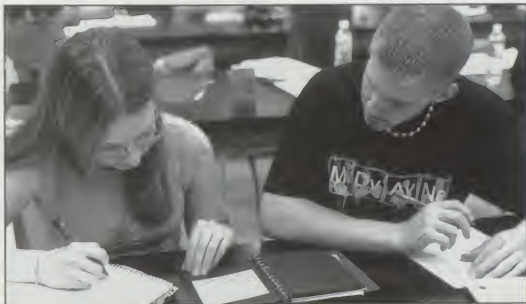
-Mrs. Amber Baron





To prepare her students for the Advanced Placement Calculus exam, Mrs. Nancy Draper shows how to interpret a graph function. Paying close attention, Senior Alex Buck watches as she explains the problem. Analyzing this graph is just one of the many problems students complete on the board to prepare for the test.

Students in AP Biology class perform many interesting labs to learn about their eyesight. Senior Lisa Vartanoff and Junior Ryon Bishop take a test to determine if they are colorblind.



Working on a practice test, Senior Kevin Sager concentrates on how to solve a complicated problem. In an AP Calculus class almost all problems challenge students and require them to use a graphing calculator.

Why did you take AP History?



"We like history and hope to get a more in-depth idea of it. Plus, of course, we wanted to get some college credit."

Juniors Dyann Segvich and Joey Frasca



Marine Bio TAKES TRIP ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ to Florida

Marine (adj.) a. Of or relating to the sea. b. Native to, inhabiting, or formed by the sea.

Biology (noun) a. The science of life and of living organisms, including their structure, function, growth, origin, evolution, and distribution.

By David Uremovich

Marine Biology is not just a fun week in the summer that students spend in beautiful Florida. Kids spend one semester studying in the classroom to broaden their knowledge of the ocean and the activities that they will undertake. In the second semester, they train for the trip. Every year about 30 people spend a week in Key Largo, Florida, where they practice at the Marine Lab. It costs almost \$13,000 to go each year, but from most people, it is worth it.

"I had so much fun. I got to see different things in the ocean that people only dream of," said Sophomore Scott Shelhart. This was Shelhart's first year going, but he hopes it will not be his last. "I am hoping to go again next year. I already have the experience I need to get a job and raise the money," said Shelhart.

Mr. Jeff Yellon, who teaches the class, has gone to Florida for many years and has seen some incredible animals. "My most memorable

experience was a couple years back when I stood a foot away from an eight-foot long Mammuth Shark. It was amazing," said Mr. Yellon. He said that the trip Marine Biology students take is a great experience. "I really wanted to go because I thought it would be a good experience," said Senior Lisa Ross. "It was my first year going so I was really excited," said Ross.

Seeing underwater Florida is an experience unlike any other. "You're not able to see any of these things anywhere else," said Mr. Yellon.

The kids spend a week in Key Largo where they undergo 60 hours of intense instruction. They awaken before 7:30 a.m., and are not in bed until after 10 p.m.

"The kids put in a lot of hard work and dedication. It's not just jumping in the water and swimming. It's much more than that," said Mr. Yellon.

While it is hard work, students still have fun and hang out with their friends in sunny Florida!



Far below the surface of the ocean, Senior Lisa Ross works hard on her Marine Biology lab. Students also found time for rest, relaxation and fun in the sun.

"My most memorable part
of the trip was when we saw
the underwater hotel."

—Senior Lisa Ross



While in the Florida Keys, Sophomore Scott Shellhart scuba dives deep in the ocean. Being able to dive and see beautiful life under the sea is the students' favorite part of the trip.



Getting ready to board their boat "The Wreck Diver," Seniors Olivia Obregon, Theresa Nixon and Nathan Walker are ready for the long day ahead of them. Although their days were long and tedious, it was all worth it to be in the Florida Keys.



Quotable Quote



"Our most memorable moments were when a shark was right in my face, and when we were coming back from a dive and dolphins were jumping everywhere."

Seniors Haatal Dave & Joe Mustafa



Acting UP IN Class

Advanced [ad] 1. Highly developed or complex. 2. Being at a higher level than others.

3. Ahead of times; progressive.

Dramatics [n] 1. The art or practice of acting and stagecraft. 2. Dramatic or stagey behavior.

By Kate Santeramo

Ever wonder what it's like to perform on stage in front of an audience? Or think about what goes on backstage?

Students learn all about these things and more in Advanced Dramatics.

Mrs. Beverley Seaver, director and sponsor of the Dramatic Society and Thespians, has high hopes for students in her class.

"Students should receive a better understanding of the production process and advanced skills in the areas of performance and production techniques," Mrs. Seaver said. "Students also develop the self-discipline needed in theatre."

"In Advanced Dramatics, we have learned a lot about stage make-up, miming, masks, stage presence and are currently focusing on stage construction and duet scenes," Junior Diana Hughes added. Hughes has been involved in dramatic productions since she was five. She has been a member of the Dramatic Society since her freshman year.

Students who have been involved in the MHS Dramatic Society or have pre-approval from Mrs. Seaver can participate in this semester-long experi-

ence. These students have demonstrated an interest in acting, stage work or make-up.

Senior Maya Rothstein said, "I have been into drama since I was in elementary school, and am most interested in the portion of backstage and technical stuff of our class."

Hughes' interests, on the other hand, lie in the acting and performing portions of the class.

"I love to perform," Hughes said. "We do a variety of fun stuff in Advanced Dramatics. We have made masks and tried out make-up techniques. I really enjoyed this class."

Hughes and several other Dramatic Society members participated this year at the State Thespian Conference, performing Act V of "Midsummer Night's Dream." Qualifying for the competition is its own reward.

Several Advanced Dramatics students participate in the fall and spring plays. Performances this year included "FOOLS," "Blackout," "Murder Ahoy" and "Bye Bye Birdie."

Mrs. Seaver said, "I see this class as a springboard for more advanced work in theatre."



Picasso or Jon Wargo? Senior Maridith Sperling and Sophomore Jon Wargo paint the jukebox for the spring play, "Bye Bye Birdie."

The bar used in "Bye Bye Birdie" needs a little handyman's work. Who do you call? Senior Chris Drapeau. Students learn all about backstage work in Advanced Dramatics class.

" I hope that the students learn a skill in technical areas, and for those who need it, take a good audition piece to college. When they leave my class, I hope it is with a feeling of self-confidence. "

-Mrs. Beverley Seaver





Caught in the act, Senior Ariel Dennie applies costume make-up in class. Dennie describes herself as the "face of a tiger." The Advanced Dramatics class completed several creative projects, including designing their own masks and stage scenery for school plays.

Why not just strangle him? Making use of drama in class, Senior Delia Neylon practices a scene in "Bye Bye Birdie" when she thinks about killing her boss, Albert, played by Senior Matt Cunningham.



What a curve? Senior Delia Neylon and Junior Diana Hughes try to figure out a way to duplicate the arch shown in the picture. The Advanced Dramatics class helped to prepare the set for "Bye Bye Birdie."



Do you recommend this class?



"Yes, because you learn a lot of interesting things. It really broadens my experience and knowledge about the dramatic arts."

Junior Diana Hughes



Defining ART BY ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Students

Art is: 1. Human effort to imitate, supplement, alter, or counteract the work of nature 2. The conscious production or arrangement of sounds, colors, forms or other elements in a manner that affects the sense of beauty, specifically the production of the beautiful in a graphic or plastic medium

By Natasha Garcia

Art classes challenge students to be creative. "Art is expressing yourself, getting dirty, and working with your hands, almost like labor work," said Senior Krystal Palacios. She said the biggest challenge in art classes is finishing projects on time. Senior Oscar Gamez agreed. "Art is a good class to express yourself, relax and escape from the real world and reality," he said. "Art makes things easier, concentrating and focusing on one thing and finishing projects you start."

MHS offers a variety of art classes, including ceramics, sculpture, photography, commercial graphics, 3-D design and painting. Ceramics is currently the most popular art class among MHS students. Students take a basic art class which is a prerequisite for higher level classes. Art teachers begin by instructing students in technique, using textbooks, classroom presentations and videos to demonstrate what the students will be doing.

Every student works on either individual or group projects. For example, the 3-Dimensional Art class used a video camera, computer and wire for their clay animation project. They often make things by hand. In Sculpture, students work constantly trying

to perfect their projects, and they are graded on how hard they work on those projects.

Art teacher Mr. Terry Pratt said students come into these classes with different expectations. "If students are exposed to art," Pratt explained, "they will be more creative. Art is labor intensive so it doesn't help being academically inclined, if you can't be productive. I am up front with my students and I tell them this straight out." Art teachers, Pratt said, understand that students learn in different ways and so "They don't all get the same instruction. They all don't understand in the same way."

Student art is displayed in the Dr. Eleanor Lewis Gallery in the main hall. Photographs, clay animation projects, computer-generated art and paintings provide artistic displays throughout the school year. Mr. Pratt said, "The department submits artwork to three or four contests each year, giving the students an opportunity to win awards and scholarships."

"Art is anything that has an emotional message or response," Mr. Pratt explained. "Writing, painting, drama, dance, and carpentry can all be art."

Musical art influences students on several levels. Mr. Pratt explained that some drama students are also in art classes. "Art is a talent, a developed skill, not a gene," Pratt said. "If parents weren't involved by developing an environment where their kids listen or play music, they wouldn't be so creative."

Smoothing out the rough edges of her sculpture, Senior Krystal Palacios succeeds in taking her projects to the next level of completion. Most plaster projects take several steps to complete.



Glossing his finished pinch pot, Freshman Justin Gestring adds a twist to his creation. Adding a shimmer or glossy look contributes to the visual appeal of a project.

So it won't fall apart, Junior Ricardo Moreno slips in scores, smooths out the rough edges of his project. Being consistent and attentive to details adds to the overall artistic impression of pots.

"Interacting with students and talking with them or helping them out with a project is what I love about my job."

-Mr. Terry Pratt

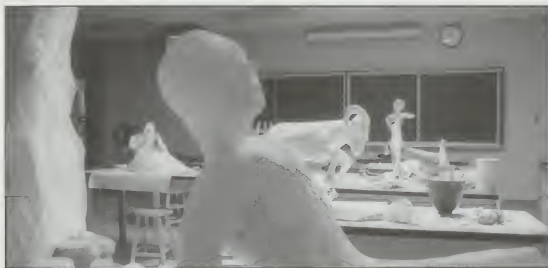




Adding on finishing touches, Mr. Terry Pratt helps Senior Sondra Lozski fix the kinks in her jack-in-the-box. Lozski created the masterpiece from scratch in her 3-D design class.



Excelling at drawing in his art class, Junior Chris Humes takes a moment to pause and think of what to do next. Humes is currently working on a mural in the art loft.



Half way to completion, the 3-D class's project sits in the empty classroom waiting for their creators to appear. It takes students a long time to finish each part of their projects.



Why did you take art?



"Being an artist helps me deal with everything in the world that drives other people crazy."

Senior **Phillip Knots**



Made From TOP TO Bottom



Building (Noun) 1. Something that is built as for human habitation, a structure. 2. The act, process, art or occupation of constructing. 3. A use, permanent construction, as a house, store, etc.

Trade (Noun) 1. The business of buying and selling commodities, commerce. 2. Actively pursued as a livelihood. 3. Commercial, industrial, or professional activity in general.

By Megan Brown

First they make the foundation and then start on the frame, the skeleton of the house. Day by day, the form takes the shape of its final destiny. Working together, students of Mr. Bob Mackovyak's Building Trade's Class slowly assemble the house from framing to painting.

Building one house per year, students get hands-on training in all aspects of building a house. With ten as the maximum number of students per class, males usually outnumber the females in the class. By completing this course students receive 18 college credits, so most students graduate with 36 college credit hours. After students finish their time in the class, they receive a certificate of completion from Ivy Tech that says that the student is worthy of an apprenticeship.

After the students are done with the house, an appraiser comes out to the house to assess its value and establish a fair market price. After that, people are invited to attend an open house where they can complete a sealed bid. After looking over the house and the appraised price, buyers write their name and the price they are willing to pay for the house. They seal it and give it to the auctioneer who determines the winner. After the house is sold, students still go back to maintain the house by doing yard work and keeping the house in shape.

Building Trades students go on their way with a certificate, up to 36 college credit hours and an experience that will speed them toward the future.

"Not a lot of students in the school realize, you could earn 6 high school credits and 18 college credits with this class per year. Just imagine graduating and you already have a jump on your college credits."

- Mr. Bob Mackovyak

Building the house from top to bottom means getting into those hard to reach places. By wearing protective eyewear, Senior Aaron Clemens is protected from getting paint splattered in his eyes.



Bending forward, Senior Franklin Jackson gets a better view of what he's painting. Students complete a variety of chores in building the home.



108 Academics



Working on the outside structure of the house, Sophomore Nicholas Garcia measures part of the roof so the soffit can be measured correctly and placed later

Wearing protective eyewear, Senior Matt Collins installs electrical trim rings onto the ceiling. Matt has to place the trim rings on before the drywall can be placed.



Attaching cables for computer and satellite connections on the house, Junior Matthew Hirjak has to be careful so that he does it right. Building trades students do everything from electrical work to putting shingles on the roof.

Why did you take **Building Trades**?



“Building Trades will help me get a better apprenticeship when I graduate.”

Senior Jason Berry

1



2



3



4



7

1. After September 11, administrators, teachers, athletes and students in the Merrillville Community School Corporation joined in a Unity Circle to show solidarity in the fight against terrorism. 2. Working on his PNN project Senior Brandon Meekin does some brush-ups on the final copy. 3. Seniors Jillian Kuck, Josh Everett and Dana Krasoka show down on cookies and juice after giving blood. 4. Sophomores Justin Hall and Joe Hall hold up either side of SADD's sign during the Homecoming Parade. 5. Belling out those high notes, Freshman Mike Finchum takes a try of karaoke at the Turnabout Dance. 6. Dr. Mark Sperling says some final words at the annual Candle Light Walk sponsored by SADD. 7. Stealing the show, Seniors Kate Czubik, Matt Cunningham, Meredith Sperling and Mandy Elser and Junior Kathleen Hyzy congregate on stage during a scene in the fall play, "Fools".

5

6



When a children enter the world of education as kindergartners, many parents take control over what their children have time to participate in. They sign them up for Girls Scouts or Boy Scouts, Little League, sports, play gyms and music lessons. Many kindergartners spend time doing activities, not knowing that these activities could help toward future goals.

Middle school offers another wave of options — after school clubs and activities. Some students continue to play sports through middle school and play on a school team. Given more options, many students join clubs that best fit their personality or interests. In middle school, given the freedom to choose what they want to be active in instead of their parents telling them what to do, students choose from sports to cheerleading to academic teams and science clubs.

As students enter high school, more options bombard students. There are always new clubs to join. Yet now, clubs have a larger purpose in a student's life. As some look toward the future, they know that the clubs they join are going to help them to get into a college and to compete for scholarships.

after school.
Different interests. Many to choose.
Which is best for you?



football Homecoming

During the week of September 17 to 21 the halls were filled with one thing — spirit. Students enjoyed Pajama Day on Monday, wearing items like fuzzy slippers and cozy robes. Bending the rules was allowed on Tuesday with Hat Day. Self-expression was apparent on Wednesday with Crazy Hair and Mismatch Day. Students showed their devotion to their grade Thursday on Class Color Day. At the end the week, students showed their pride for MHS and America on Purple and White/ Red, White and Blue Day.

Class games and the Homecoming Parade were on Thursday. Students had a chance to participate in events including Twister, a pie-eating contest, the three-legged race and the traditional pudding slide.

During the parade, themed "The Pirates Dreaming of Slicers Screaming," candy rained on the onlookers. Sports teams rode in vehicles and the Homecoming queen candidates cruised the street in convertibles.

2001 Homecoming Queen Renee Ramos crowned Tiffany Alleman at the game on Friday. "It was wonderful to win. I was honored. I felt like Cinderella!" said Alleman. She celebrated her win with boyfriend, Senior Wesley Doty, friends and family.

The coaches honored Senior Stephen Gill, naming him Mr. Football. "I was surprised. It didn't hit me till after the game," said Gill. Gill celebrated his excitement with girlfriend, Senior Anne Stupic.

Kristina Milicevic



Parents, students and fans fill the stands for the Homecoming game. The football game is one of the most attended and liveliest games of the season.



Strutting his American threads, Saphamore Nick Cunningham shows his school spirit by wearing red, white and blue for Spirit Week.



Looking beautiful as ever, Seniors Julie Lesniak, Carey Ruckman, Tiffany Alleman, Brittany Cobb, Lauren Nuzza and Elena Ganzaalez reflect what Homecoming is all about.



Bursting with happiness, Senior Tiffany Alleman is crowned the 2001 Homecoming queen by last year's queen, Renee Ramos. Alleman was crowned during half-time.





Drenched with chocolate pudding, Seniors Tomaro Bawen, Corey Ruckman, Chris Gabriel, Rachel Hammond and Jennifer Sierra act silly for the camera after playing in the pudding after the class games. The pudding slide is a messy but popular event in the class games. The seniors shawed everyone who the bosses were when they won in every event.

Tratting back and forth, Seniors Jenny Jansen and Julie Seagraves have to work together with only three legs. Seagraves and Jansen were a part of the three-legged relay race at the class games



Hitching a ride on the Junior Class float, Juniors Sarah Cordwell, Diana Hughes and Sarah Kennedy wave and smile as they ride down Broadway. The juniors placed second in the float competition.



Racing to be the first one done, Sophomore Ashley Dallas stuffs her head into a pie during the pie-eating contest at the class games. In order for Dallas to win, she had to finish her pie without using her hands



Chatting in the break room, Sophomore Ashley Berger, Freshman Alex Gates, Junior Ricki Tants and Sophomores Joanne Flores, Carol Newell and Dave Uremavich take a breather from dancing. They show that Homecoming was fun even off the dance floor.

Seniors Tany Allison and Kryssi Fleck show everyone what swing dancing is all about. Many students watched in amazement as the pair swept away the dance floor.



Gazing into each other's eyes, Juniors Shawna Breitenstein and David Spakaras pass time holding each other while waiting in line for pictures. Even waiting in line was fun for the two.

Moving to the beat, Seniors Riley Lorimore and Brittany Cobb dance together in the middle of a crowd.



MOONLIGHT DREAMS



Having a good time, Senior Hoatol Dave and Kevin Shah, a student at Northwestern, dance the night away. The couple shared a fun and romantic night together.



Collar flipped up, Senior Jason Giordano impersonates the "Fonz." Giordano's unique dancing style attracted much attention.

About 250 couples attended "Moonlight Dreams," the Football Homecoming Dance, September 22 in the Hall of Flags. Student Government hosted the event, which has been a tradition for many years.

Students put on their best clothes and took advantage of a chance to dance, mingle and let loose.

"It was fun. Everyone was having a good time and meeting new people," said Sophomore Fabian Griffin.

Students enjoyed chips, pop and cookies in between dancing and mingling.

Student Government raised the money for the treats and decorations by selling munchies after school. Money from last year's account also helped.

"The dance went better this year than last year but the attendance was still lower than we wanted," said Student Government President Jenny Heidler.

Kristina Milicevic



Dancing to a romantic song, Seniors Scott Gregory and Jillian Kuck smile at friends. Slow songs were popular at the dance, especially for the couples.

The rowdy crowd throws up their hands while dancing the Y-M-C-A. Many students found the most fun on the dance floor.

Basketball Homecoming

And the winner is . . . Julie Lesniak!

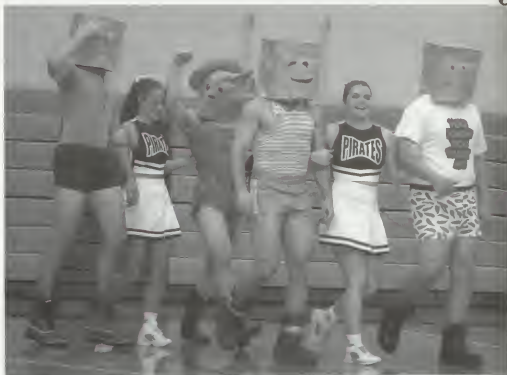
Every year, Merrillville hosts a special event, Basketball Homecoming. This year it fell on January 25, against Portage. The Pirates kept up the long-standing ritual of victory with a score of 60-51. The week prior to the game, Student Government sponsored Spirit Week for the students to earn spirit points. This year included pajama day, hot day, class color day and of course, purple and white / most patriotic day. The Freshman, Sophomore and Junior Classes each chose four girls to represent them as Homecoming Princesses. The seniors nominated five girls to battle for Queen. This year, the nominees were Seniors Tiffany Allemen, Elena Gonzalez, Julie Lesniak, Corey Ruckman and Sarah Stackert. At the half-time show, after a special performance by the Dance Team, a parade of beauty took over the court. The Princesses from each grade walked across our gymnasium with style. Each dressed to perfection, the nominees for queen followed, anticipating the big moment.

"I felt honored and privileged to be nominated, being that there were only five nominees out of our entire class. I wasn't really nervous because Homecoming Week should be fun and plenty of other things were taking my mind off of half-time during the game," Gonzalez said. As Senior Class President Maegon McPhee introduced each nominee, the excitement soared. Ruckman said, "I wasn't nervous, I was just happy to be out there. It was a fun experience." Finally, the flowers found their place in Lesniak's hands, surely a moment for any girl to remember. "When they called my name, there was a five second delay, I was very surprised it was me," Lesniak said. "Thanks to all those that put this right together. It was a great way to top it all off."

Next, the varsity Cheerleading Squad escorted a group of seven senior boys wearing short, tight outfits and paper bags over their heads, ready to be judged by all the ladies to see who had the sexiest "Senior Hot Legs." After quite a show, including an impression of Michael Jackson by Senior David Neville, a close tie between Neville and Senior Steve Gill and loud screams from all the girls, Gill accepted the honor of Mr. Senior Hot Legs!

"They [the girls] were pretty loud. I was happy that I got a lot of screams from the girls. It must have been the cowboy look they liked so much!" Gill said. Other contestants were Josh Everett, Jeff Meding, Tommy Sovich, Derek Wampler and Jason Giordano.

Kate Santeramo



Strutting their stuff in their "hot legs" attire, Seniors Tommy Sovich, Steve Gill, Jeff Meding and Derek Wampler are escorted onto the floor by Seniors Rachel Hammond and Katie Floyd. The "hot legs" contestants put a lot of thought into their costumes for the evening.



Bustin' o move for the crowd, Senior David Neville shows off his Michael Jackson dance moves. He accompanied his moves with a slightly modified Jackson ensemble.



Galloping across the floor, Senior Stephen Gill fires up the crowd with his "hot legs" and his cowboy antics. Although it was a tough decision for the fans to make, they roared the loudest for the one in the cowboy boots, riding the pony. Gill said, "I was excited. Everybody was talking trash about who was going to win, but we just wanted to have a good time."





After being introduced as the Homecoming Junior Princesses, Juniors Jamie Sweeney, Fontaine Stegall, Diana Hughes and Jenny Heidler watch the rest of the nominees walk across the gym. The princesses eagerly awaited the results of the vote for Homecoming Queen.

After the unveiling of the queen, Senior Eleno Gonzolez congratulates Senior Julie Lesniak on her victory. While only one girl was chosen to be the queen, each candidate was happy to be nominated as a princess.



All dressed up for the big night, Sophomore Heidi Hammond steps forward as her name is called for the princess nomination. Sophomores Coral Newell and Tianna Coleman smile as the crowd cheers for their fellow court member.

Eagerly waiting to see who will be chosen queen, Senior Princesses Sarah Stockert, Corey Ruckman, Julie Lesniak and Eleno Gonzolez stand before the cheering fans. Senior Tiffany Allemon was also selected by the students to be a Senior Princess.

a New teacher a New style

With a new instructor, Mr. Mark Ciesielski, PNN and WMHS have undergone many changes. PNN is not just a learning tool, but also a great source of entertainment for the students of MHS.

"Hopefully I've brought just a different perspective of a television station and how a television program should be run. I have extensive experience in both print and broadcast journalism. I take the behind the scenes and the professionalism very seriously," said Mr. Ciesielski. "Besides bringing in new ideas for the shows and a different way to run the program, hopefully I've also shown the proper way to deliver entertainment to the student body."

In years past the station was used as a club. PNN is now a class.

"This year is my fourth year in the television studio. I have seen it go through many changes and it has evolved greatly," stated Senior Josh Harvath.

The classes have grown in number, putting more diversity into the television shows. This year PNN has aired a live daily morning announcement show, weekly Friday show and a monthly cable show.

PNN has also tried to focus more on entertainment and less on straight news. At the end of the year all of the PNN students' hard work will pay off with a chance to compete for a WMHS Grammy.



At the end of the day, Mr. Mark Ciesielski prepares the studio for the next day. This is Mr. Ciesielski's first year at MHS.



PNN purchased new computers and a camera this year. Senior Julie Seagraves assembles a sports highlight video for a state video competition.



Graphics are as important as any other job in the studio. Senior Carey Ruckman designs graphics for "The Friday Show."



Music is a key part of video production. Senior and PNN veteran Josh Harvath prepares for his game show by scanning thought cds for the perfect song.



The PNN crew enjoys their final product as they take a break in the studio. Mr. Mark Ciesielski receives input from some of his viewers. Sophomores Cody Camp and Jeff Zweig along with Seniors Brandon Meekin and Jayne Horan give ideas for improving the show.



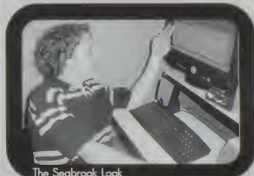
The 5 Dola Holo

Bryon Williams' original trivia show, "The 5 Dola Holo," made a big splash on the Friday Show.



Fourth Hour Power

Seniors Krystal Catania and Brandon Meekin and Sophomore Cody Camp make PNN segments with their own styles.



The Seabrook Look

Senior Josh Seabrook uses the new computer to edit a skateboard video.



The Love Test

Sophomore Tony Becerra and Freshman Lindsey Sharp test their relationship on Elena Gonzalez's "The Love Test."

This was the moment the Senior Class had been waiting for—a chance to beat the faculty in the annual Student-Faculty Basketball Game. On April 19, the Senior Class made 21st century history by defeating the faculty for the first time since 1998. This is also the first time the seniors beat the faculty without varsity basketball players on the team.

"It was bound to happen eventually. They had a great team this year. I can handle losing to a team that knows how to play basketball," said Mr. Zac Wells.

Seniors Tom Sovich, Riley Larimore and Jason Giordano coached the 15 seniors who played.

"I was excited even when I was on the bench," said Senior Mark Koves.

The gym was rockin' with cheers from the fans and tunes from the band. Senior Norman Sherwood felt the rush of adrenaline as he displayed a monstrous dunk during warm-ups.

Only seconds into the game, Senior Brian Yack drained a three pointer to get the seniors on the scoreboard first. The Seniors never looked back from there as they kept the lead throughout the game. Marlan Hanley iced the game with a clutch three pointer that gave the seniors a commanding lead.

As the clock ran out, the students rushed the court in celebration, knowing they had beat the faculty 35-29.

After shooting 0 for 4 from the field, Mr. Steve Nichols was befuddled at the loss. Later in class, he said he was "shocked."

High scorer, Senior David Pritt replied after the game. "We came, we saw, we conquered."

Allen Bobowsky



They've got spirit. Senior Cheerleaders Lara Dabbs, Sammy Grzesik, Meghan Mauman (behind pom-pom) Kristina Gaburn, Sarah Certo and Haalid Dave cheer on their Senior Team.

Hoping to score, Mr. Sheldon Floyd forces his way to the basket. Mr. Floyd learned that he couldn't score without a fight from Senior Brian Yack.



120 Clubs & activities

Student -



Giving it his all, Senior Jarmaine Johnson tries his best to keep the ball in bounds for his team. He showed that he was not going to let the faculty win by making aggressive plays.



As he goes up for a lay-up, Senior Aaron Green "pearls" the ball over the rim. Green and the other members of the student team beat the faculty for the first time without varsity basketball players on the team.

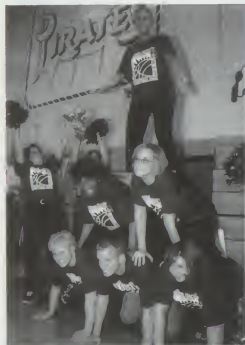


faculty Game '02



Ready to score, Senior Norman Sherwood prepares to go up for a jump shot. Mr. Zac Wells and Mr. Dan Baron try to block Sherwood by double-teaming him.

Whose got spirit? The faculty cheerleaders prove they have a lot of spirit. They show off their awesome pyramid during the game



Pudding anyone? Assistant Principal Mr. John Jennings is drenched in chocolate pudding during half-time. Jennings agreed to the pudding bath as a way to raise money for the children of the Franciscan Home in Crown Point. Members of the Natural Helpers/Guest organizations sponsored the "Penny Wars" fundraiser. Members of each class dropped change into buckets in the cafeteria. Students could drop pennies into the buckets to sabotage the other classes. Students raised a total of \$350. Natural Helpers/Guest donated \$150. Meijer Department Store matched with a donation of \$500.



And the crowd goes wild! Students swarm the court to greet the senior players after their win. The seniors defeated the faculty.



With their cameras ready, a group of students watch as Senior Dave Stram crowd surfs at the dance. While prom-goers spent much time with their dates, they also took time to dance and laugh with friends.

Smiling at their friends and family who are watching, Senior Stacey Kavols and MHS '00 graduate Jeremy Rinker walk through the Hall of Flags during the Grand March. The set-up at the Grand March was different this year, making it possible for students to see all prom-goers.



Taking a break from the dance floor, Seniors Manolis Olandezos, Danielle Ragon and Meghan Mauman grab a bite to eat. Most prom-goers go out to dinner after the dance; however, they also enjoy the hors d'oeuvres provided at Prom.

Showing royalty with their crowns, the 2002 Prom King and Queen share a dance. Juniors Igor Radevski and Alysa Forthey were announced King and Queen at the Grand March prior to the dance at Avalon Manor.



ONCE UPON a Dream



With their eyes closed, Senior Kryssi Fleck and her date, John Felty, stay close during a slow dance. Like Fleck, some students brought guests who have already graduated or attend another school.



Slow-dancing together, Junior Tony Klippel and former student Ashley Sak spend time together at the dance. Sharing a quiet moment allows Sak time to reflect on the night.



Getting into the music, Juniors Vince Torres and Heather McCoy participate in the famous disco dance. Although the two did not go as dates, they had fun dancing as friends like many students do.

Prom is a special time for juniors and seniors to spend with that special someone or just have fun with friends. This year some traditions were changed while others remained the same.

The Grand March was still held in the Hall of Flags, but was rearranged so that students could see all other prom-goers, and parents could take clearer and closer pictures. "The Grand March was far more organized and went a lot smoother and I was also glad that I was able to see everybody walk down the aisle," said Senior Kryssi Fleck.

Couples gracefully flowed into Avalon Manor, where prom was held for its second year. The banquet hall allows couples to dance under the soft light and enjoy its luxury.

This year's prom theme was "Once Upon a Dream" with soft colors of periwinkle, light pink and iridescent white. Couples danced the night away with this year's song "Promises" by Jagged Edge. Senior Tamara Bowen said, "Despite the outdated D.J., I still had a blast at prom." Even though prom comes and goes, it holds some of the most memorable moments of high school.

Carey Ruckman



After the song lyrics asked "How low can you go?", a group of students dance low to the ground. The song, entitled the "Cha-Cha Slide" has become very popular at events such as Prom, due to its need for participation.

Academic Decathlon

Sponsors: John Lamberse, Scott Staley

1st Row: Jane-Hwei Lee, Danessa Delacruz, 2nd Row: Veroniga Phelps, Mirka Ivanovic, Markeya Martin, Chia Chiang, 3rd Row: Mr. Lamberse, Syed Aftab, Mr. Staley.



Choralteens

Director: Roger Emig

1st Row: Mandy Elser, Tina Gaburn, Samantha Argue, Mariana Naglosky, 2nd Row: Kris Dabu, Michelle Wood, Julia Frey, Julie Lesnick, Kate Czabik, Nick Ulman, 3rd Row: Ryan Moore, Nicole Birmingham, Nijala Neely, Katie Floyd, Tiffany Davis, Jesse York, 4th Row: Craig Zarembo, Kara Miller, Amy Kaste, Taira Rogulen, Matt Cunningham.



Choralteens

Director: Roger Emig

1st Row: Brandon Waldrup, Christine Aloia, Sarah Kennedy, Trevi Ramon, Jennifer Mustafa, Keith Eaton, 2nd Row: Jeffrey Zweg, Laura Sapko, Julie Trimble, Kathleen Szol, Jame Ortiz, 3rd Row: Randy Johnson, Cara Gray, Felicia Parks, Scott Shelhart, 4th Row: Kris Greene, A.J. Davis, Nolan Buck.



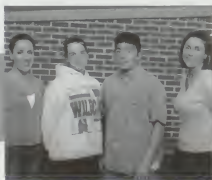
Color Guard

Sponsor: Stephanie Veal

1st Row: Jennifer Ruschak, Diana Guntanilla, Nancy Garcia, Kaye Smith, Dikah Joyner, Schneika Hinton, 2nd Row: Chauntese Williams, Damara Hanlin, Tiffany Gallegos, Mallorie Mitchell, Kasee Smith, 3rd Row: Katie Wilson, Lauren Jones, Kristin Hardman, Daniel Dean, 4th Row: Courtney Albright, Katie O'Brien, Brittney Stoca, Bonnie Paya, Valerie Lipp, 5th Row: Aynale Frost, Mrs. Veal, Taryn Neal.



Class Officers



Class of 2002 Sponsors: Courtney Hardin, John Lamberse, 1st Row: Jessica Gonzalez, Tamara Bowen, Chris Gabriel, Moegan McPhee, 124 Clubs & Activities



Class of 2003 Sponsors: Maggie Stallings, Wade Boise, 1st Row: Dave Rood, Damara Hanlin, Diana Hughes, Monique Navarro.



Class of 2004 Sponsors: Dawn and Amber Baron, 1st Row: Dayon, Jonathan Warus.





Concert Band

Director: Bob Myers

1st Row: Dana Bolden, DeAndrea Johnson, Megan Bowles, Dustin Torr, Sara Kwell, Michelle Luttinen, Rachael Thomas, Elena Estes, 2nd Row: Elizabeth Hall, Johnnya Goosby, Stephanie Waldron, Sara Lopez, Stacey Veldman, Jon Cabral, Sneza Nacovski, 3rd Row: Kathryn Diehl, Trenika Williams, Shaun Freeman, Kim Sandifer, Clay Henry, Shana Anthony, 4th Row: Kenyetta West, Stephanie Neville, TaNesha Logan, Mike Marcus, Kendall Thomas, Jeremy Adamson, Aaron Marcus.



Concert Band

Director: Amy Davis

1st Row: Chris Cota, Melodie Plummer, Cris Hara, Biljana Mizimakaski, Kevin Baksa, Jaia Warner, 2nd Row: Becky Kohler, Amanda Cast, Zach Sowash, Andrew Canana, Lagina Williams, NaGuta Zimore, 3rd Row: Michael Ashe, Matthew Kasperan, LaRahn Sanders, Adrian Jones, Melaine Maple, Matt Paul, 4th Row: Farah Ashanti, Darren Anderson, Anesia Brown, Matt Wieneke, 5th Row: D.J. Marler, Jon Reynolds, Greg Nikisch.



Concert Orchestra

Director: John Bradford

1st Row: Amber Kaste, Hilary Marinich, Heather Natiywa, Liso DeLaRosa, Eleni Anton, Allison Dyer, Tommy Slivka, 2nd Row: Michael Binder, Lindsey Nossich, Tricia Lakatos, Ashley Janavick, Christy Hanson, Tiffany Dobry, Kassandra Kluga, 3rd Row: Randall Aleman, Arnie Valdez, Gaganadeep Kaur, Jamie Parker, Michelle Danko, April Samuels, Marissa Bankston, 4th Row: Pauline Petruch, Alexandara Garritana, Loreal Blackwell, Josh Curtis, Mark Wieneke, Paul Best, John Kedziara, Joe Sabek, Nikisha Scott.



Concert Choir

Director: Melinda Reinhart

1st Row: Jodi Suggs, Tara Johnson, Camella Pickett, Brittany Wiltgen, Liso Natiywa, Jessica Carter, 2nd Row: Mike Vulpitta, Angela Doering, Aimee Street, Lindsey Wills, Jennifer Agors, Taura Turner, Christina Davis, Leah Dixon, Brittney Blue, Carl Hurd, 3rd Row: Erico Leanos, Amanda Daniels, Amanda Hunter, Sabrina Hennessy, Jennifer Griffin, Daviana Wilson, Christine Bynum, Kelly Simanson, 4th Row: Brandon Pruitt, Dennis Howell, Anthony Dennis, Shana Tucker, LaShawanna Beard, Tristen Congress, Jeremy Roark, Shaun Wood, 5th Row: Danny Strom, Curtis Wyatt, Kyle Loudermik, Brandon Sharp, Matt Sopka, Michael Andrews, Thomas Vaulk.



Creative Writing Club

Sponsor: John Lambersie

1st Row: Samantha Yurechko, Meredith Sperting, Jacqueline Lipski, Sharon Hawkins, Nicole Petit, 2nd Row: Jeff Zweig, Aubrey Brainard, Megan Brown, Naomi Hagallan, 3rd Row: Aaron Hebert, Mr. Lambersie, Philip Knatts, Patrick Petravich.



Dramatic Society

Sponsor: Beverly Seaver

1st Row: Jesse Koon, Caleb Bateman, Courtney Albright, Matthew Cunningham, Cindy Wahlman, Katie Czubik, Diana Hughes, Nick Ullmann, Bianca Mizmakoski, Andrea Ranaldi. 2nd Row: Mrs. Seaver, Lindsay Sperling, Jessica Gonzalez, Ariel Dennie, Damara Hamlin, Jenni Festa, Tina Coburn, Mandy Elser, Katie Floyd, Nilaja Neely, Jaime Ortiz, Jennifer Mustafa, Melissa Duttweiler, Samantha Sullivan. 3rd Row: Sabrina Hennessy, Kathleen Hyzy, Brittany Grimmer, Jonathan Warus, Elena Estes, Alexandra Garritano, Maeglin Farmer, Nicole Olivares, Angela Merritt, Katie Wilson, Aubrey Brannard, Jacqueline Lipski. 4th Row: Jack Neylon, Delia Neylon, Heather Phillippe, Monique Emmons, Nicole Birmingham, Emily Graun, Sharise Rogers, Meredith Sperling, Jeff Zweig, Shawn Wood, Jeremy Roark. 5th Row: Jan Wargo, Cliff Golan, Chris Drapsau, Lauren Strom, Ashley McNeil, Emily Mandich, Amanda Degard, Mike Finehum, Jessica Argue, Aimee Street, Aaron Hebert, Nolan Buck.



Family Career & Community Leaders of America

Sponsor: Carol Van Behren

1st Row: Jeannette Arenal, Gagandeep Kaur, Emily Graun, Katie O'Brien. 2nd Row: Natasha Copic, Michelle Matheny, Abby Hacker, Dominic Angotti. 3rd Row: Ryan Bishop, Jesse Koon, Chris Nahlik, Kimberly Vanek.



Future Educators of America

Sponsor: Monica Burgos

1st Row: Nicole Murphy, Mallorie Mitchell, Kelly Kourtesis, Ms. Burgos, Allison Czubik. 2nd Row: Sherry Kwell, Shervine Haynes, Daniel Dean, Chantrese Williams. 3rd Row: Samantha Sullivan, Megan Furlc, Angela Merritt. 4th Row: Jessica Peterson, Stephanie Hall, Melissa Jackson, Pauline Katsouras.



French Club

Sponsor: Irene Spiro

1st Row: Damara Hamlin, Kyle Patel, Dan Lexsa, Nilaja Neely, Tina Coburn, Karen Gresh, Jamie Kistingner, Jonathan Warus. 2nd Row: Ms. Spiro, Cassidy Pruitt, Cynthia Gonzalez, Vanessa Assibey-Mensah, Claudia Perez, Hilary Marinich. 3rd Row: Lindsey Harreld, Theresa Schubert, Kathleen Szot, Dathan Echols, Emily Peters, Jason Kendera. 4th Row: Nathan Harris, Oswaldo Flores, Nick Janakievski.



German Club

Sponsor: Edie Fisher

1st Row: Mrs. Fisher, Emily Mandich, Caitlin Floyd, Kryssi Fleck. 2nd Row: Ben Graves, Becky Stephen, Dominic Angotti, Cassondra Garner.





Helping Education Reach Occupations

Sponsor: Carol Van Brehren

1st Row: Shannon Schafer, Stacey Kavos, Megan Barry, Markeyta Martin, Anna Dako. 2nd Row: Jessica Menchaca, Melissa Stewart, Stephanie Gonzalez, Lisa Bewley, Lisa Lopez. 3rd Row: Clarence Craig, David Husek, Staci Misialek, Larin Barman, Jillian Kuck. 4th Row: Felix Roman, Matt Valant, Adam Stetson, Melissa Burress



Jazz Band

Director: Bob Myers

1st Row: Johnyee Goosby, Dominic Angotti, Jon Cabral, Justin Barron, Eddie Contreras, Michael Ashe. 2nd Row: Jaja Warner, Kevin Lewis, Mark Kovacs, Paulo Loorden, Becky Stephen. 3rd Row: Dan Estes, Kristofer Dabu, Nathan Street, Neil Osborne, Marissa Vawter. 4th Row: D.J. Marler, Emily Peters.



Science Club (J.E.T.S.)

Sponsor: Jim Vermillion

1st Row: Dan Lexsa, Sarah Kennedy, Jan Jasnski, Damara Hamlin, Syed Alfabb. 2nd Row: Joe Jurisa, Kate Santeramo, Matt Jagiela, Dyanm Segvich, John Stojanovski.



Key Club

Sponsor: Rob Bedwell

1st Row: Tiffany Dabry, Allison Czubik, Dana Bellard, Mykah Johnson, Erika Villarreal, Sara Valdez. 2nd Row: Kelli Fravel, Crystal Coleman, Sarina Wilkerson, Amanda Maldonado, Laura Sapka. 3rd Row: Fred Dabry, Kelly Sanson, Rob Hush, Ricardo Hernandez, Joe Jordan, Dave Rooda. 4th Row: Syed Alfabb, Alex Buck, Mr. Bedwell.



National Honor Society

Sponsor: Maggie Stallings

1st Row: Marissa Vawter, Dan Lexsa, Chia Chiang, Kate Czubik. 2nd Row: Cynthia Hunkle, Katie Floyd, Jane-Hwei Lee, Mandi Anaya, Melissa Russell, Julie Lesniak, Janice Hollenbeck. 3rd Row: Julie Seagaves, Cindy Wahlman, Matt Jagiela, Delta Neylon, Monique Emmons, Mirka Ivanovic. 4th Row: Krystle Fleck, Lisa Ross, Nathan Harris, Tim Randolph, Derek Wampler, Michelle Wood, Heather Hush. 5th Row: Ken Dettlerline, Chris Kors, Joe Jurisa, Jan Jasnski, Oswaldo Flores.



Natural Helpers

Sponsor: Jerry Kasarda

1st Row: Maejin Farmer, Amanda Degard, Veroniqa Phelps, Calleen Regan, Nicole Patterson. 2nd Row: Justin Hess, Melissa Velazco, Claudia Perez, LaChile Turner. 3rd Row: Mr. Kasarda, Mark Roberts. 4th Row: Cliff Galon, Brittany Grimmer



Pirate News Network

Director: Mark Ciesielski

1st Row: Elena Gonzalez, Julie Seagraves, Diana Hughes, Sarah Ceria, Dana Bellard. 2nd Row: Sean Simpson, Sharise Rogers, Megan Diaz, Krystal Catania. 3rd Row: Jeff Zweig II, Justin Hess, Dan Sierra, Pedra Rangel. 4th Row: Ryan Marlow, Adam Milicevic, Jason Smith, Chris Drapeau, Dave Caughlin



Quill and Scroll

Adviser: Teresa Procter

1st Row: Kate Santeramo, Kristina Milicevic, Kris Paskash, Jenny Heidler. 2nd Row: Tim Balko, Rachel Hammond, Lisa Ross, Aynale Frost, Sarah Stockert. 3rd Row: Kim Shapley, Adam Milicevic, Shakielia Clark, Elizabeth Ilievski. 4th Row: Dave Uremavich, Allen Bobowsky



Quiz Bowl

Sponsor: Scott Staley

1st Row: Randy Johnson, Kristina Milicevic, Joe Sabek. 2nd Row: Adam Lewis, Dathan Echols, Brandon McVode, Mr. Staley



Students Against Destructive Decisions

Sponsor: Carletta Cheek

1st Row: Cassandra Garner, Lindsay Sperling, Veroniqa Phelps, Cynthia Gonzalez, Samantha Loo. 2nd Row: Kristina Jodanis, Chris Munchenburg, Katie Floyd, Melissa Vargas, Michelle Wood. 3rd Row: Ms. Cheek, Kara Miller, Shawna Breitenstein, Claudia Perez. 4th Row: Amy Kaste, Ricardo Hernandez, Colleen Regan





Science Olympiad

Sponsor: Tony Bartolomeo

Gregory Ross, Rod Grove

Spanish Club

Sponsor: Mary Ann Bertram

1st Row: Cassandra Garner, Mrs. Bertram, Kristine Jackamis, 2nd Row: Oswaldo Flores, Jane-Hwei Lee, Matt Huber

Spell Bowl

Sponsor: Evelyn Steiner

1st Row: Chia Chiang, Jane-Hwei Lee, Damara Hamlin, Jenny Heidler, 2nd Row: Dathan Echols, Guille Dabu, Randy Johnson, Adam Lewis

Socially Together And Naturally Diverse

Sponsors: Danny Lackey, Maria Lopez

1st Row: Casey Czekala, Samantha Loo, Keith Eaton, Nicole Sparger, Kristina Oleska, 2nd Row: Mrs. Lopez, Melissa Velazco, Mike Vulpitta, Bryan Papa, Lisa Graf, 3rd Row: Jody George, Michelle Danka, Kimberly Vaneek, Hilary Marinich, Damara Hamlin, 4th Row: Arlinda Nava-McCain, Gagandeep Kaur, Claudia Nava-McCain, 5th Row: David Uremovich, Ricardo Hernandez, Mr. Lackey

Student Advisory Board

Sponsor: Dr. Mark Sperling

1st Row: Jon Jasinski, Nick Ullmann, Brandon McVade, 2nd Row: Mirka Ivanovic, Chia Chiang



Student Government

Sponsor: Scott Staley

1st Row: Cliff Galon, Gregory Ross, Jenny Heidler, Maya Rathstein, Guille Dabu. 2nd Row: Damara Hamlin, Sarah Kennedy, Kristina Oleska, Diana Hughes, Jessica Gonzalez, Ashley Dallas. 3rd Row: Kate Santeramo, Joseph Thomas, Kathleen Szot, Jesse Koon, Mr. Staley. 4th Row: Candice Woods, Mark Huber, Dana Kraska, Jennifer Reid, Brittany Grimmer, Laura Heidler. 5th Row: Rod Grove, Steve Vaneik.



Superbowl

Sponsors: Craig Stafford and Evelyn Steiner

1st Row: Jane-Hwei Lee, Allison Czubik, Chia Chiang, Kate Czubik. 2nd Row: Adam Lewis, Morissa Vawter, Randy Johnson, Gregory Ross. 3rd Row: Dathan Echols, Brandon McVade, Megan Brown, Mr. Stafford.



Symphonic Band

Director: Amy Davis

1st Row: Chrissy Lewis, Ashley Poling, Kryssi Fleck, Rebecca Lee, Kimmi Deming, Laurie Mitchell. 2nd Row: Kyle Faeze, Kevin Lewis, Zach O'Keefe, Adam Poling, Matt Colbert, Chris Takarski, Brandon Battle. 3rd Row: Josh Gonzales, Gregory Ross, Megan Laocy, Raleigh Enslin, Ryan Allender, Elise Szany, Darrell Graham. 4th Row: Ray Vickerstaff, Jon Savin, Bernard Beard, Andrew Fard, Shaun Crittenden, Ashley Jones, Jason Kendera. 5th Row: Nathan Street, Michael Bakos, Lorne Grimmer, Sheridan Pawell, Virginia Savage, Cecil Collins, Rod Grove.



Symphonic Band

Director: Bob Myers

1st Row: Jasmine Dayan, Jamie Kistinger, Sherry Kwell, Kaye Smith, Mallorie Mitchell, Samantha Sullivan, Melissa Robinson, Emily Graun. 2nd Row: Jonathan Warus, Christina Peschke, Brittany Stoica, Brittany Grimmer, Becky Stephen, Emily Peters, Greg Branda. 3rd Row: Justin Barron, Ed Contreras, Ryan Miller, Neil Osborne, Jan Jasinski, Earl McClain. 4th Row: Lee Catton, Dave Rooda, Colin Roberts, A.J. Davis, Temidaya Macarthy.



Symphonic Orchestra

Director: John Bradford

1st Row: Lunetta Ellison, Nicole Sparger, Janice Hallenbeck, Renee Griggs. 2nd Row: Fred Dabry, Tony Allison, SeAndrea Collins, Jennifer Ruschak, Mallory Homola, Jeannelle Moreno, Chia Chiang, Jacqueline Lipski, Josef Delacruz. 3rd Row: Kris Dabu, Melissa Sanchez, Katie Wilson, April Ramirez, Theresa Schubert, Monique Navarro, Lauren Homola, Courtney Albright, Melissa Velazco, Jon Wargo. 4th Row: Mike Berta, Elizabeth Donelson, Aynrole Frost, Guille Dabu, Steve Dexas, Delia Neylan, Donessa Delacruz. 5th Row: Joe Jordan, Derek Wampler, Joe Jurisa, Lisa Newell, Chris Kors, Rob Banks, Dan Padberg, Mike Gonzalez, Jim Kelly, Geoff Latic.





Varsity Choir

Director: Melinda Reinhart

1st Row: Morgan Bynum, Ana Otano, Jenni Festa, Shakyra Wiley, Andrea Vela, Shana Williams. 2nd Row: Leah Griffin, Felicia Graves, Erica Fizer, Alisha Lucas, Jessica Sims, Katie Coleman, Jacqueline Hartford, Claudia Tirado, Kim Jansen. 3rd Row: Juli Coates, Mylah Johnson, Casey Sieb, Taneisha Kirk, Lindsey Sharp, Asja Howerton, Sara Grzybowski, Megan Bruns, Aurora Garza. 4th Row: Tiffany Jones, Amanda Brum, Nicole Olivares, Ineke McMillan, Sable Strickland, Jacinta Arekwe, Kendall Maddox, Caresa Upchurch, Nikki Jimenez. 5th Row: Brittany Caldwell, Andrea Rainaldi, Nikia Tanna, Aundrea Kenan, Kristen Neese, Evangelina Roja, Elena Waitkevich, Genny Wirtz, Melissa Jackson.



Velveteens

Director: Roger Emig

1st Row: Maya Rothstein, Lisa Graf, Samantha Yurechko, Samantha Lao, April Graves, Katherine Mantolana, Heather Casady. 2nd Row: Martheena Kendrick, Megan Kars, Rebecca Longacre, Fontaine Stegall, Rebecca Evans, Demetria Messengill. 3rd Row: Meredith Sperling, Tiffany Wesley, Nicole Murphy, Heather Phillippe, Rebecca Terres, Pauline Katsouras. 4th Row: Mr. Emig, Blair Amelso, Beth Caton, Danielle Cvaneck, Missy Paniaguas, Cathryn Stupic.



Vocalteens

Director: Roger Emig

1st Row: Kris Dabu, Nilaja Neely, Tina Coburn, Brandon Waldrop, Sarah Kennedy, Nick Ullmann. 2nd Row: Jeff Zweig, Sam Argue, Ian Dabos, Julie Lesnak, Al Davis. 3rd Row: Randy Johnson, Christine Aloia, Mandy Elser, Jamie Ortiz. 4th Row: Kris Greene, Kathleen Szot, Ryan Moore, Nicole Birmingham, Katie Floyd, Matt Cunningham, Kate Czubik, Craig Zarembo.



Wind Ensemble

Director: Bob Myers

1st Row: Dominic Angotti, Casey Frey, Anial Derrine, Cynthia Hunke, Sharon Hawkins, Jenna Throw, Krystle Schallens, Stephanie Wusk, Ginger Francis, Mark Koves. 2nd Row: Kaitsee Sawyer, Jessica Wieneke, Aubrey Brainerd, LaDanna York, Victoria Cantrell, Katie O'Brien, Abby Hacker, Nicole Patterson, Liz Henderson. 3rd Row: Kevin Lewis, Chris Wisner, Breanon Rodgers, Marissa Vawter, Colleen Regan, Chris Nahlik, Kevin Sager, Brandon McVade, David Neville. 4th Row: Caleb Bateman, Marlon Hanley, Ricky Tantis, Adam Lewis, Dan Estes, Nate Osborne, Henry Jackowski, Oswaldo Flores.



Winter Drumline

Director: Amy Davis

1st Row: Caitlin Floyd, Kryssi Fleck, Ginger Francis, Jessica Wieneke, Tamara Bowen. 2nd Row: Ms. Davis, Ashley Poling, Sharon Hawkins, Liz Hall, Elise Szany. 3rd Row: Shaun Grittenden, Samantha Yurechko, Aubrey Brainerd, Emily Peters, Caleb Bateman, Adam Poling. 4th Row: Dan Estes, Adam Lewis, Dathan Echols, Lorne Grimmer, Brandon McVade. 5th Row: Kyle Beshears, Henry Jackowski, D.J. Marler, Mark Koves, Jon Jasinski, Kevin Sager.



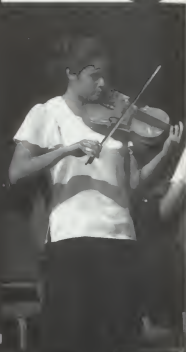
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6



7

1. Searching for items unknown, Seniors Mandy Elser, Koren Gresh and Monique Enmans find a rubber chicken and more in the play, "Fools" 2. Playing those soulful blues is Senior Brandon McVode, who played in Jazz Bond for the past three years. 3. Amazing the crowd with her skill on the violin, Senior Melissa Sanchez plays to perfection. 4. Playing to the crowd, Juniors Adom Lewis and Saphanore Edward Contreras show the audience what they can do. 5. Telling Senior Doren Cudjoe what's up, Junior Tristen Congress showed her patriotic spirit by wearing her flag tap. 6. Rapping to an original song, Senior Bryon Williams sings during the Revue. 7. Belting out those ballads at the choir concert, Junior Trevy Ramos and Seniors Kate Czubik and Julie Lesniak sing for the audience.



You read the script weeks before auditions, memorizing your part, getting into your character as best you can. Finally it's time to go. You take the stage, the bright lights shining down on you and you let go. Putting passion and emotion into a part you've worked so hard to get makes it finally seem just inside your reach. As you wait the two days till the cast list is posted, you're nervous yet confident that even if you don't get the part you wanted, you'd still be cast. Finally the day is here. You run to the list and you let a squeal of joy ring out as you find out you have the part. Next is after school practices, set design and costumes. Drama is a performance art.

Reading the notes on the paper and playing them are two different things. Practice and guidance helps as you practice to make your music perfect. Besides receiving help in class from the teacher, some students even go to outside help when it comes to making the music better. Choir tests, concerts, marching band, wind ensemble and jazz band are just a few of the things that make Orchestra and Band a performance art.

Standing on stage. The lights turned low. Sweaty palms rubbing against your leg as beads of perspiration slowly roll down your forehead. Slowly the curtains open and the audience is revealed. The lights go on blinding you for a millisecond. You stand composed as you put into motion the talent that you've tried so hard to perfect. There are many types of performing arts. Drama, band, orchestra and choir, are some of the ways students shine on stage.

*In front of everyone.
Reading lines or playing an instrument.
Participating in the arts.*



Holding still and waiting for their signal to begin, the Marching Band and the Dance Team are ready to entertain the crowd with their routines. The band and the poms begin practicing in August to perfect their half-time show.



Marching in formation, the Merrillville High School Marching Band puts on a show for half-time. The band practices many hours to present a show that entertains the audience and wins an award at competition.

Juniar Dominique Henry strikes a pose to show the audience that she is not afraid to show a little attitude.



The Pirates are coming to take over the field. To carry out the "Hook" theme, the band used a pirate ship, trees and rocks to replicate Never Never Land.



Half-time Show

"Our hard work led to a great season."

Senior Carey Ruckman



Three Groups 'Hook' Together

A football game at Merrillville High School has always been exciting. This year's half-time show took the excitement to another level by providing larger-than-life props for the show.

The MHS Marching Band, in combination with the Color Guard and Dance Team, presented 'Hook,' a show with a Pirate ship and other props that brought Never Never Land to life. The performers presented the show at football games and also numerous marching band competitions.

"It's hard getting everything together, but it definitely has its fun moments," said Senior Kevin Lewis, who

Gets down and crazy. Senior Tamara Bowen is showing off her dazzling jazz ability. Bowen and the Dance Team use facial expressions to get the crowd involved.

plays mellophone during the marching band season.

"I love the feeling of going out there and performing," Senior Ginger Francis said. "Whether it is the 'Hook' show or anything we do, the feeling is always great!"

The 'Hook' show earned a Division I rating at the Indiana State School Music Association district competition, allowing the band to advance to the regional. They traveled to Chesterton High School and received a Division II rating there.

Band Director Mr. Bob Myers said, "It was a successful year where much experience was gained."



With her arms held high, Junior Aubrey Brainard conducts the Marching Band during the halftime show. As drum major, Brainard makes sure that everyone marches to his or her designated spot.



Normally a member of the woodwind section, Senior Dathan Echols surprises the audience and plays the xylophone. Echols usually plays the saxophone, but since it was Homecoming, he took the mallets and played the xylophone.



Fall Play

"It's a historical story taking place in Russia around the end of the 19th century."

Mrs. Beverley Seaver

Putting 'Fools' on Stage

The Merrillville Dramatic Society took a comedic approach toward the production of this year's fall play, "Fools." Since the auditions for the play drew so many talented students, Dramatic Society sponsor Mrs. Beverley Seaver double cast the play. Double casting the play gave the audiences another reason to come back and see the play again. The casting created new challenges for the cast members.

"It did not really affect me," said Senior Shakella Clark, who played the role of Sophia Zubritsky. "Double cast-

ing was okay because we did not have to do the show every night, but it caused a little confusion among cast members."

The play was a unique choice. Telling a story about a village of idiots is not an easy task.

"The play was an unusual piece for Neil Simon," said Mrs. Seaver. "It's a historical story taking place in Russia around the end of the 19th century."

The end product was a culmination of talent, costumes, sets, cooperation and planning.



After a crazy welcome to Kulyenchikov, Leon (Senior Matt Cunningham) and Sophia (Senior Shakella Clark) share a sweet kiss goodnight.



Leon (Senior Matt Cunningham) and Sophia (Junior Diana Hughes) look at each other adoringly as they say their "I do's" to break the curse.

The double cast comes out for the final "foolish" curtain call.



Dr. Zubritsky and Mrs. Zubritsky (Sophomore Jan Wargo and Senior Dee Neylon) respond to a knock on the door by the new school teacher. The two await the news he is about to give.



Count Yousevitch (Junior Clifford Golon) spies on three unsuspecting villagers (Seniors Mandy Elser, Karen Gresh and Monique Emmons).

Dr. Zubritsky (Junior Caleb Bateman) tries to listen intently to Leon, but finds it difficult due to the curse that made the townspeople "fools."

The villagers (Seniors Karen Gresh, Cindy Wohlman, Meredith Sperling and Kate Czubik) have a completely incomprehensible conversation. Many of the scenes portrayed confusing dialogue which gave the play its name, "Fools."

Playing with grace Juniors Freddie Dobry and Nicole Sparger light up the crowd with their fine tunes. The orchestra requires teamwork to succeed.



The cellists play up a storm as their friends and family look on. The cellos are a vital part of the orchestra.

Conducting his orchestra with the slightest of hand, Mr. John Brodford keeps his orchestra in harmony. Everyone is intense when performing before a full crowd.



Wisking away at her violin, Senior Dee Naylor brings the crowd to its feet. The audience enjoys her solo performance as they cheer for more.



Orchestra



Have you ever wondered what that awesome sound is when you walk by the Orchestra room. It's the talented Merrillville High School Orchestra. This orchestra is directed by Mr. John Bradford.

"There are so many differences in how students learn, but they can all get to the music if it is in them," Mr. Bradford said.

Students credit Mr. Bradford as their key to success.

Showing the holiday spirit, Mr. John Bradford displays his enthusiasm by wearing a Santa hat. He conducts his orchestra with intensity.

Inspiration leads to success

"Mr. Bradford has really inspired me to go and study music out of high school," said Senior Kris Dabu.

"He always encourages us to do the best we can," said Junior Geoff Lalic.

Orchestra members need determination and desire to compete with the best.

Junior Theresa Schubert said, "Playing in orchestra concerts is a great way to show our hard work in practice everyday."



Receiving praise and glory for a job well done Andy Streudelmeyer thanks the crowd for attending. After he receives his gifts Streudelmeyer is all smiles.

Fiddling away, Seniors Jenny Ruschak, Melissa Sanchez, Chris Kars and Junior Dan Paderg show off their talents to a full house



"The Show Choir really sparks up a night."

Senior Katie Floyd

Choirs

Singing With Character

Attend one choir concert and you will be tapping your feet to the music.

Under director Mr. Roger Emig, the choirs perform their songs and dances throughout the school year. One big moment for the choir came in December, when choir members had the privilege to sing in front of a live audience with Kenny Rogers, a musical artist, at the Radisson Star Theatre.

Although the choirs have natural talent, all their great songs and hip dances are not handed to them on a silver platter. The choirs work countless hours to perfect their shows.

Senior Katie Floyd explains that practice is all worthwhile.

"The Show Choir really sparks up a night," says Floyd. "I get nervous and excited all at the same time, but after all is said and done, everything went great."

Choir members form a special bond with each other.

Recalling her years as a choir member, Senior Tina Caburn explained, "We are like family. We know each other from the inside and out. That's what really makes us such a great group."



While his classmates dance to the beat, Freshman Jeremy Radak sings his solo to the audience.



At the fall concert Seniors Julie Lesniak and Katherine Czubik sing their duet for the audience. The two sing in perfect harmony.

Members of the Varsity Choir sing during the fall performance. The group worked hard for this performance.





At the end of their song, members of the Varsity Choir wave to say "good-bye" to the audience. To close their concert, the group sang "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."



With Christmas wreaths hanging in the background, the Velveteens pause as they finish their song.

As Junior Jaime Ortiz sings, Sophomore Jennifer Mustafa does the sign language for the song that the duet is doing.



MHS choir alumni who are in the audience for the Christmas concert are invited to join the current members of the Choral Department to sing the "Hallelujah Chorus." Mr. Roger Emig conducts.



Wearing their classy uniforms and flashy hats, (from left to right) Seniors Diana Quintanilla, Valerie Lipp, Lauren Homola, Lindsay Punnea, Jennifer Ruschak, (front) Nancy Garcia, and Tiffany Gallegos show off their smiles at Senior Night. Not only are these seniors members of the Color Guard, but they are also good friends.



Twirling their flags, the Color Guard members march down Broadway during the Homecoming parade. Togetherness and timing are important factors in Color Guard.

Waiting patiently, Senior Diana Quintanilla gets ready for band members to begin playing the National Anthem. The football pre-game is a chance for Color Guard members to showcase their talents.



Color Guard members take a time out from the parade to pose for the camera. These girls show how much fun they have in Color Guard.



Color Guard

It Takes Talent to Twirl

Concentrating on her counts, Sophomore Kathleen Wilson twirls her flag during the half-time performance. The Color Guard added color and entertainment to the show.



Waiting for the sounds of the drum, Color Guard members stand at attention for the National Anthem. Color Guard, the Dance Team and the Marching Band worked together to perform "Hook."

Members of the Color Guard make it look easy. Little do the fans know how much skill it takes to twirl a flag.

Members start practicing their routines in the end of May after the team has been selected.

They take classes in dance and participate in what they call a "body camp" where the instructor teaches the Guard graceful moves.

"The first thing we do is set up a practice schedule and work with the band to learn our placement on the field," explained Sophomore Ayriole Frost.

"We have practices two or three times a week with the band during the summer," she said.

The summer ends with a week-long band camp, when final preparations are made for the fall half-time show.

This year's team has learned that unity is key to success, especially after the departure of their old coach.

"Having the years of experience, I was named a captain. I tried to teach the girls and keep things in order," Senior captain Nancy Garcia said.

New to the Color Guard this year was Coach Mrs. Stephanie Veal, who left Merrillville after the school year to live in Greenville, South Carolina.

"I enjoyed this season," Mrs. Veal said. "The ladies were awesome to work with. Under the circumstances that I was named coach, it would have been easy for them to be upset and quit. But they didn't and we had a great year."

"Although we had some rough times," noted Garcia, "this year was the best that Color Guard has had in the last couple of years."



Focusing on her next move, Junior Torryn Neal shows off her talent as a member of the Color Guard. Memory and concentration are important to Color Guard members.



Jazz Band

Jazz Band succeeds with determination and desire

Jazz Band is one of the several bands that make up the band program. Mr. Bob Myers instructs the group that consists of four sections: saxophone, trombone, trumpet and rhythm (piano, bass, guitar and drums).

This year in Jazz Band, the underclassmen enjoyed the advantage of having the majority of seniors to look to for advice. Many of those underclassmen had to compete in selective auditions against more experienced

seniors in order to be in Jazz band. Last year in contest, the group did well and earned a first place in division one.

Jazz Band 'gives individual players the opportunity to show their musical ability through improvisation.' Senior Dathan Echols said.

'I love playing with all my friends and playing the music that I like to hear,' Senior Kris Dabu added.

Elizabeth Ilievski

Performing many saxophone solos for the Jazz Band, Senior Dathan Echols plays his instrument during a practice. Since jazz music is mostly improvisational, Echols enjoys artistic freedom when he performs. Dathan has been playing the sax for four years.



Pausing for a note, Senior Kevin Soger, Sophomore Ryan Miller and Senior Brandon McVade look over their music, while they wait for their turn to play.

With the trombone, Senior Kevin Lewis establishes the chord that other jazz musicians improvise around.





The piano, played by Senior Morisso Vowter in Jazz Impact, sets up the introduction and establishes some of the melody for the Jazz Band. Vowter has been playing the piano for ten years. At practice, she plays an upright, but during concerts she plays the school's Steinway grand piano.



The drums, played by Senior David Neville, are one of four instruments of a jazz band's rhythm section. Others instruments are bass and electric guitars and the piano. As a member of the Pep Band, Neville also jams to the beat of his drums during home basketball games.



Giving it a tool, Senior Brandon McVade leads his trumpet section like a pro. Senior Kevin Lewis blocks out all nearby distractions to become one with his tubane.

Ski-bittle-shu-bop-she-wag-the-doo. Junior Emily Peters makes music with her saxophone as she practices with Jazz Band. Peters, one of many sax players in the jazz bands, blends her tones with the other sax players to create the mellow music that is jazz.

Bringing a unique act to the stage, Senior Arial Denite performs at the Revue. She mimed to 'I Almost Let Go'.

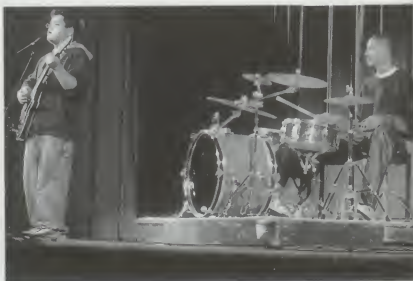


While the song "Drops of Jupiter" plays, Seniors Jon Jasinski and Kryssi Fleck perform a dance. Seniors Kris Dabu, Brandon McVade, David Neville III, Ginger Francis and Tamara Bowen and Junior Kyle Beshears also sang, danced and played instruments during the "Mark Koves Experience."

Showing American pride with her red, white and blue apparel, Junior Tristen Congress sings "I Don't Need You." Three couples performing synchronized dance moves accompanied Tristen on stage.



Using their musical talents, Seniors Kris Dabu and David Neville perform their original song, "Consequence of You." The group also played other songs that were more familiar to the audience.



The Revue

"Random Acts of Talent"

Showing Off Their Talents

The Revue gives a chance for all the students at Merrillville High School to show off their talents. Many students look forward to this production because it gives them the chance to support their fellow classmates.

Each year the show is put on, the acts have to go through an audition to be cast in the show. A group of senior Thespians watch the tryouts and choose 20 of the best.

Practicing and perfecting the acts makes the show a success. From acting to singing and dancing, the show presents many types of interesting acts put into one big night.

Head banging along with the beat, Senior Josh Stevens gets involved in his act. Stevens plays bass in the band, Skin Deep. Skin Deep was one only one of several bands that performed at the Revue.

This year the Drama Club wanted to make the show unique from the past Revues by adding different kinds of talent. Showing off her talent that most students have not seen before, Senior Anal Darnie painted her face and mimed to a song. Sophomore Ricardo Hernandez and his group brought creativity to this year's Revue by using pencils to create beats.

Acting as MCs for the evening, Seniors Monique Emmons and Cindy Wahlman, Juniors Caleb Bateman and Jaime Ortiz, Sophomores Jon Wargo and Kymalee Gresh took turns introducing each act. Gresh said, "It was interesting introducing scenes instead of acting on stage."



Tapping on a wooden table, Freshman Brandon Grzybowski gets a beat going. Grzybowski helped entertain with both humor and music.

Daring what he loves, Senior Mark Kaves performs a self-composed piece, entitled "Last Love." Kaves was a key part of the Revue by playing with a group, performing solo, and providing music in between acts.

Spring Musical

"Bye Bye Birdie"

He's coming! He's coming! Conrad Birdie. He's coming! The biggest music star is coming to Sweet Apple, Ohio, to give one lucky girl his final kiss before he goes to the army! Conrad Birdie rocked and rolled his way onto the MHS stage in this year's spring musical, "Bye Bye Birdie."

Mrs. Beverley Seaver, Director, cast the show in January and began the production process. As the show date approached, rehearsals got more intense.

"We were very busy in March and April because we practiced everyday from 3 to 6 pm," said Senior Matt Cunningham.

It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to make a show successful, whether it comes from the "techies" who work backstage or the actors who perform onstage. The backstage crew for this show consisted of about fifteen techies who were in charge of running lights, sound, and scene changes. In preparation for the show, some techies put in over 100 hours of tech work, building sets and setting up lights. On stage, there were over 40 cast members who sang, danced and acted. Some cast members spent just as much time learning lines and choreography as techies did building the sets.

"I would practice four hours every day until the opening night of the play," said Senior Mandy Elser.

After three and a half months of building, memorizing and directing, Conrad Birdie and his world of horn-rimmed glasses and poodle skirts came to life in Reinhart Auditorium.

After hearing the shocking news, Senior Cindy Wahlman falls on the bench as Senior Matthew Cunningham tries to help her up. Both of the stars won Best Actress and Actor for the Senior Choice Awards.



Spreading a little sunshine, Juniors Sarah Kennedy and Christine Aloio and Senior Matthew Cunningham show their dancing moves to the song, "Put on a Happy Face."





Gazing into the mirror: Senior Katie Jo Floyd's character waits for her dream guy, Conrad. After acting in the spring musical for four years, Floyd made her final appearance in 'Bye Bye Birdie.'



Chatting on the phone: Juniors Julie Trimble and Stephanie Bigelaw's characters gossip about the recent pin of Hugo and Kim. The setting of this scene was Sweet Apple, Ohio.



Ring, Ring: Everyone dances and sings to the 'Telephone Hour.' 'Bye Bye Birdie' was a great success as the spring musical.

While singing a song, Senior Chris Drapeau's character breaks the heart of his adoring fan. Freshman Jenny Festa feels her heart beat while holding on to her heartthrob.

1



2



3



4



5



7

1. Making a play for the ball, Junior Jonathon Gutierrez finds an obstacle in his way. 2. Juniors Kim Shopley and Koren Davis attempt to block Crown Point from scoring. 3. A member of the Cross Country Team, Sophomore Natalie Weoll keeps on giving all she's got. 4. During a time out, Seniors Anelido Aponte and Moegon McPhee and Junior Liz Gallnotti listen to their coach talk strategy. 5. Number one singles player, Sophomore Greg Brando warms up before sectionals. 6. Leading off third base, Senior Julie Seagraves watches the pitch of the plate, waiting for an opening. Seagraves played during the Baseball/Softball Fundraiser to raise money for both teams. 7. Blocking for the quarterback, Senior Nicholas Fisher clears the way for a touchdown.

6

You start a month before tryouts. Lifting weights after school and making time to run a couple of miles on the weekend. Then it's time for tryouts — two or three days of showing the coach what you're made of. Then there's the day of waiting, the day of anxious wonder as you ponder whether you'll make it or not.

You make the cut! Now it's time for after-school practices, motivating lectures and studying the other team's moves. You hone your talent, and perfect your moves. You complain about the work and the pain, and wish that you could quit, but know you can't. So you toughen up and move forward, working harder and taking the work and pain with a smile on your face. Because you know that...

it all pays off as you step out onto the playing field, knowing all those people in the stands are there to see your team play. Your heart starts pumping as the adrenaline kicks in. You hear the crowd cheering your team to victory. Everything you've done over the past few months — all the pain and practices — finally seem to fit. You remember all that you did to get there. Finally, all the pieces come together.

Tryout.
Make the team. Practice.
Win the game.



A Season to Remember

Going For Distance

Looking for an open receiver, Senior quarterback Brian Yack prepares to throw the ball. As a captain, Yack led the team's offense to eight victories.

Team Scores

Lake Central	W 7-2
McCutcheon	W 20-0
Crown Point	W 26-3
Partridge	W 28-21 OT
Michigan City	W 36-0
LaPorte (H)	L 27-13
Valparaiso	L 41-0
Hobart	W 41-6
Chesterton	W 13-3
Lew Wallace (S)	W 41-0
Chesterton (S)	L 10-3

DAC Record	5-2
Season Record	8-3
JV Record	53-1
Freshman Record	52-1

Tremendous Trio

Although many football fans may have been concerned after the graduation of key players, the 2001 team proved to everyone that success is a way of life for MHS football. This could be partially attributed to Coaches Tony Bartolomeo, Wilber Milhouse and Steve Nichols, new to the Pirate staff this year. The coaches said that while they wished for success, they wanted the players to play to the best of their abilities. This trio strived throughout the season to make a positive impact on the boys' lives with enthusiasm, intensity and emotion, all while creating a challenging football atmosphere.

The Name of the Game

The title of "Mr. Football" holds such great honor. As an MHS football tradition, the coaching staff gives one outstanding senior player the title of Mr. Football. For the 2001 football season, the coaches named Senior Steve Gill. "He is an outstanding person, academically and athletically," head coach Jeff Yelton said. At the start of the season, Gill stated that he was eager to gain respect as a player, and by doing so lead the team to success. Gill described himself as an athlete who used his intensity to play his position as strong safety. After being named Mr. Football, Gill stated that he was both surprised and honored.

Team Honors

MVP
Steve Gill
Mr. Zip
Joe Frasca

Aye Aye Captains!

A portion of the team's success can be attributed to the senior captains. Devoting so much time to the sport has prepared them for this leadership role. Senior captains Steve Gill, Mike Francis, Riley Larimore and Brian Yack proved to be an important component in the team's accomplishments. Coach Jeff Yelton described the foursome as "a wonderful and unique group of seniors." In addition to leading the team, the four "put their hearts into playing their position with perfection," Larimore commented. The foursome always played with determination, passion and excitement.



Here They Come!

Following his blockers, Junior Brad Woodward carries the ball toward the end zone. The Pirates held four opponents scoreless this season.



Head of the Pirates

Contemplating his next attack, head coach Jeff Yellon watches his Pirates anxiously. Although much of his coaching staff was new this year, the season proved to be successful.

A Tradition to Remember

Getting ready for the kick off, Pirates on the sideline hold their helmets high with pride. This tradition has lead the Pirates to many victories.



The Golden Toe

Punting with all his might, Senior Nick Roberts kicks one high on a Friday night. Although Roberts played a position that goes unrecognized, he contributed greatly to the team's success.

Battle of the Sixteens

Dodging Crown Point, Sophomore Matt Cowan, Merrillville Junior Eric Morris looks for an opening breakaway. The Pirates were victorious in leashing the Bulldogs by the score of 26-3.

Right Back at You!

Making sure the ball does not land on the Pirates' side, Senior Anelida Aponte blocks a spike as Junior Christine Aloia prepares for the next play. Aponte provided strong offensive and defensive assistance for the Pirates.

Looking Toward Victory

Following her dig with her eyes, Sophomore Heidi Hammond lands on all fours. Hammond's relentless pursuit for the ball played a major role in this team's success.



Dig Thist

Low to the ground, Sophomore Tianna Coleman digs up the ball as Sophomore Carol Newell rushes to lend a hand. Passing was one of the many ways Coleman contributed to the team's defense.

Good Athletes, Bad Attitude!

Muscles are not the only benefit the MHS Varsity Volleyball Team gains from the weight room. The girls' tough and aggressive attitude contributed significantly to their success.



Jumping to Success

Soaring above the net, Senior Lisa Newell spikes the ball to the opponent's side. Newell's aggressive hits were an important ingredient in making this team successful.



Rising to the Occasion

As Calumet High School Junior Kimberly Kwasniwski attempts a block, Sophomore Carol Newell rises higher to spike the ball with no return. Sophomore Heidi Hammond and Senior Janice Hallenbeck provide coverage. Newell continues to follow in her sisters' footsteps in becoming an exceptional volleyball player.

Season Ends at Regionals

Team Gels at Crucial Point

The girls' Volleyball Team enjoyed a successful season this year, going 25-11, 5-2 in the Duneland Athletic Conference and winning the sectional. They competed well the whole season and placed second in both the LaPorte Tourney and Terry White Invite. Senior Lisa Newell, who will continue her volleyball career at UNC-Charlotte, led the area in kills this season. Newell said that the team improved tremendously from last year because the girls worked hard in the off-season. "We were successful this year because we worked as a team and not individuals," Sophomore Heidi Hammond added. While the Pirates lose Seniors Newell, Anelida Aponte, Janice Hallenbeck and Maegan McPhee, team members are optimistic for next year. "I want the team to work hard and get stronger in the off-season so that we can win regionals and get to state, where we deserve to be," said Sophomore Tianna Coleman. With returning defensive specialist, Junior Christine Aloia, and four sophomore varsity starters, the team will look good for years to come.

Newell Goes Division I-A

Lisa Newell received a full scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, as well as many other scholarship offers. "I chose UNC-Charlotte because the coaches really knew what they were doing, and I just fell in love with the campus," said Newell. "I feel that I will start middle, but there are a lot of good girls and I will have to earn my spot." Newell received offers from Georgia Tech, Northern Illinois, Cincinnati North Carolina and Wyoming. Newell said she really wanted to play with her sister, but Cincinnati was not the school she wanted to attend. "I wanted to play with her, but I wanted to go south. Cincinnati was not for me," Newell added. Playing on varsity since her freshman year, Newell has been able to share the court with both of her sisters. "I would love to play with Carol again, but at the same time I want her to choose the school that she wants to go to." Named to the All-Duneland and All-Area teams, Newell led the team with more than 350 kills.

Team Scores

Griffith	15-10, 15-2
Lowell	10-15, 15-8, 15-15
Hebron	15-3, 15-5
W. Lafayette	15-13, 15-7
Concord	12-15, 15-8, 15-8
Peru	15-7, 15-9
LaPorte	11-15, 11-15
Whiting	15-1, 15-4
Andean	14-16, 15-10, 15-6
Lake Station	11-15, 15-4, 15-4
LaPorte	8-15, 6-15
Lake Central	7-15, 10-15
Hobart	15-6, 15-2
Calumet	9-15, 15-0, 15-5
Portage	4-15, 15-7, 15-11
Mishawaka	8-15, 3-15
Concordia	5-15, 5-15
Marquette	15-13, 5-15, 2-15
Bishop Noll	15-10, 15-11
Chesterton	15-5, 15-10
Morton	15-2, 15-7
Crown Point	17-15, 15-5
Munster	15-12, 15-1
Highland	15-9, 15-8
Penn	4-15, 8-15
Valparaiso	11-15, 15-10, 15-12
Michigan City	6-15, 5-15
Valparaiso	6-15, 14-16
Lowell	15-5, 15-12
S. B. Riley	15-8, 6-15, 15-9
Highland	15-6, 11-15, 15-1
Plymouth	15-11, 15-4
ISI Valpo	15-6, 15-7
ISI Chesterton	15-3, 12-15, 15-9
ISI Portage	15-4, 15-7
RI L. C.	11-11, 3-15, 12-15

DAC Record	5-2
Season Record	25-11
JV Record	15-10
Freshman Record	0-25

Team Honors
MVP
Lisa Newell

Most Improved
Christine Aloia

Sportsmanship
Maegan McPhee

Copy
by Dave Uremovich

Captions
by Rachel Hammond

Layout
by Kate Santeramo

Team Scores

West Lafayette	W 7-1
LaPorte	W 6-0
Wheeler	W 6-2
Chesterton	W 1-0
LaVie	W 9-1
Bremen	W 10-1
Mishawaka Marian	L 2-1
Plymouth	W 4-1
Valparaiso	W 3-2
Michigan City	W 3-0
Lake Central	L 2-1
Crown Point	W 4-0
Harrison	W 6-3
Lafayette Jefferson	W 3-0
Hobart	L 4-3
Andean	W 4-3
Portage	W 2-2
Munster	L 1-0
Lowell (S)	W 7-2
Lake Central (S)	W 3-2
Highland (S)	W 2-1
Bishop Noll (R)	W 3-0
Argos (SS)	W 3-2 (OT)
SB St Joseph (SS)	W 4-3
FW Canterbury (State)	L 1-3

DAC Record	6-1
Season Record	20-5

JV Record	7-4-4
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Team Honors

MVP

Vangel Nacovski

Most Improved
Chris Gabriel

Sportsmanship
Luke Nienhaus

Copy

by Kara Lux

Captains

by Erin Morgan

Layout

by Elena Gonzalez

Making History

Soccer Team Makes First Trip to State Finals

The MHS boys' Soccer Team made history this season. The team had an outstanding year, winning the Duneland Athletic Conference, sectionals, regionals and semi-state. Head coach Brian Past and his four junior captains led the team throughout the season. With the support of the super fans, the team pushed on and had the best season in MHS history. The team worked hard to play as one unit and they enjoyed playing together. Although the team will be without key seniors next year, the team looks forward to another successful season.

The Leading Man

Junior Peter Brasovan is familiar with pressure and hard work. He has been playing soccer for 13 years and plans to play in college. As the Pirates' goalie this season, Brasovan played an important role in the team's success. "I like playing goalie because there is always a lot of pressure and action, and I work good under pressure," Brasovan said. Brasovan's defensive saves and leadership as a captain helped lead the team to the state finals in Indianapolis. Brasovan also received an Honorable Mention for the All-State team.

Four Main Men

The Pirates looked to four players for guidance and ended the season successfully thanks to the leadership of those four team captains. The honor of being captain was given to those that could handle pressure well. Juniors Peter Brasovan, Jared Byczko, Martin Cole and Vangel Nacovski were the chosen leaders. "As captains, we had to keep the team under control during the games," Byczko said, "and off the field it was our job as captains to make sure the team worked together and got along."

Defending His Goal

After preventing his opponent from scoring a goal, Junior Peter Brasovan kicks the ball down the field. Brasovan's defense was key to the Pirate's success this season.



Steal that Ball

Going for the steal, Senior Luke Nienhaus tries to disrupt the 59er's offense. Nienhaus' senior leadership on defense kept the games alive.



Where's the D?

Flying past the defense with ease, Junior Vangel Nacovski goes for the goal. Nacovski led the team throughout the season by scoring 55 goals. In seven games of post-season play, Nacovski scored another seven goals. He was the state's leading scorer.

Big Defender

Fighting for the ball and a steal during the first game of state finals, Junior Martin Cole, pressures his opponent to give up the ball. Cole's defense was a big key to this team's success.



Finished Them Off

After winning the South Bend Semi-State, Junior Jared Byczka takes off his shoes and takes a break. Unfortunately, the Pirates were not able to take home the State Championship.

Watching Waiting Hoping

Watching their team from the sidelines, Coach Brian Past, Nick Mileas, Dan Sierra and Joe Jurisa look to seal another victory. Past was the first MHS coach to lead a Pirate Soccer Team to the state finals.

Kicking for the Win

Sending the ball down the field, Senior Anne Stupic gives it everything she has. Stupic's leadership as captain helped the team throughout the season.



Playing with Desire

With speed and concentration, Senior Marissa Vawter looks down the field for the ball. Vawter showed her desire to win by playing hard during every game.

Going for the Steal

Striving for control of the ball, Sophomore Shay Kuzma takes the ball away from Valparaiso opponent, Lynsey Marckese. Kuzma had many aggressive steals during the season.



Fighting to Win

With great determination, Junior Brittany Williams tries to keep the ball away from Allison Wade of Valparaiso. Williams was chosen to be on the All-Area team.



After making a great save, Junior Laura Sapka looks to kick the ball to an open teammate. Sapka's saves, totaling 121 for the season, led the team's defense.



Ready to Strike

Winding up for a corner kick, Senior Julie Seagraves displays her concentration on the task at hand. Seagraves proved to be a positive voice among the team by winning the Best Mental Attitude award.

Girls Start New This Season

A Senior's Point of View

Being looked up to has a lot of responsibilities. "Having freshmen on the team as a senior was interesting," said Senior Julie Seagraves. Seagraves has been playing soccer for 13 years, 4 of them at MHS. "Being a senior on the Soccer Team is awesome," Seagraves said. "The seniors have been playing together since elementary school and after four years, this was our year. We made it fun!" she said. Seagraves also plays basketball and softball.

New Year, New Coach

Being a new coach takes time and hard work. Setting up daily practices, getting to know each girl and creating a game plan can take up most of a coach's time. For head coach Tammy Deel this season has been a pleasure. "Being able to communicate with the girls and getting their best output was a personal gain," Deel said. In addition to coaching the MHS girls' Soccer Team, Deel also coaches indoor leagues. Coach Deel has had a great influence on her players and other coaches. With a new coaching staff, a hand full of freshmen and some great senior players, the Pirates had quite a year. "We had a good season," Deel concluded.

Pulling On Up

Playing on varsity is a dream come true to a junior varsity player. For some this year that dream came true. When sectionals came the varsity suffered some hard hits to key players. Head coach Tammy Deel had to make some decisions. Coach Deel chose players from the JV team to help out the varsity. Sophomores Kristina Milicevic and Mallary Homola, and Freshman Jackie Gurney were brought up to play varsity. "I felt honored playing alongside the varsity girls," said Homola. "It was a great experience being pulled up." "The team was depending on me. I had to play the best I could," said Gurney.

Scores

Andrean	L 6-0
Elkhart Central	W 3-2
LaPorte	W 4-2
Bishop Noll	W 8-2
Chesterian	L 3-1
Valparaiso	L 3-0
Griffith	W 5-3
Michigan City	W 7-0
W Lafayette	L 2-1
Crown Point	W 5-4
Munster	W 4-3
Hobart	W 6-0
SBRiley Tourney	1st
Portage	L 4-0
Lake Central	L 6-0
Lake Central (S)	L 5-1
DAC Record	4-3
Season Record	10-7
JV Record	5-8-2

Team Honors

MVP
Brittany Williams
Most Improved
Meghan Mauman
Sportsmanship
Julie Seagraves

Copy

by Adam Milicevic

Captans

by Lauren Strom

Layout

by Erin Morgan



Keeping the Pace

Pacing themselves, Sophomores Cliff Cook and Ricardo Hernandez are concentrating on winning their heats. Hernandez was the only runner from Merrillville to advance to semi-state.

Team Scores

Gavit Invite	5th
T.F. South Invite	13th
Portage	L 15-50
Michigan City Invite	3rd
Hobart	W 15-50
Michigan City	L 33-22
New Prairie Invite	20th
Valpo	L 15-50
LaPorte	L 15-50
Highland Invite	5th
Crown Point	L 15-50
Chesterton	L 15-50
Hobart Invite	5th
Clark Invite	5th
DAC Meet	6th
Sectionals	6th

DAC Record	1-6
Dual Meet Record	1-6

Rebuilding Year

Leader of the Pack

In a senior's last season of his sport, he always wants to go out in style. Unfortunately, Senior Marc Maple could not do that. Injuries plagued him in the middle of the season. Maple suffered three stress fractures in his leg, hip and back. These injuries are tough to recover from since they were in different areas. Maple's injuries did not take away what he accomplished and the memories during his four years running. Maple said he will miss "the annual tee-pee-ing of Coach (Mike) Hoffman's house and all of his teammates and coach." Although Maple could not run part of this season, his senior leadership helped his teammates.

A Young Team

With only two upperclassmen returning and the other runners underclassmen, the 2001 season was unpredictable for the boys' Cross Country Team. "The team improved throughout the entire season," Coach Mike Hoffman said. The cross country season starts early in the summer with the boys practicing about three to five times a week and a more vigorous schedule later in the summer. All of the practicing helps the team become better mentally and physically. While the team did not advance out of sectionals, Sophomore Ricardo Hernandez competed individually in the semi-state meet. "The biggest accomplishment of this season was how everyone came together as a team and developed a runner's mentality," said Coach Hoffman. Team members said that the DAC meet stands out as a season highlight because all the runners did a great job. The runners gained much needed experience and hope to be more competitive on the course next year. The season started with seven teammates who came together as a big family.



I Am Number One

The expression on Sophomore Ryan Allender's face proves that he wants to be number one. Allender is focusing on defeating his opponents.

Team Honors

MVP
Marc Maple
Most Improved
Brett Skorupa
Sportsmanship
Ricardo Hernandez

Copy

by Erin Morgan

Captions

by Sammy Grzesik

Layout

by Megan Brown

I Think I Can

Trying to finish in the lead, Senior captain Marc Mople works hard and does not give up. Being the captain, Mople shows leadership and dedication so that all his teammates can follow his lead.



Worn and Beat

Exhausted and beat, Freshman Bret Skorupa keeps his pace and focuses on the finish line. Skorupa is trying his hardest not to quit because he wants to be on top.



Competition is Sneaking Up

Watch out Freshman Scott Sontelik, because company is creeping up on you. Sontelik knows he has to dash along the course in order to keep a lead.

Long Day in the Mud

Sophomore Ricardo Hernandez, Coach Mike Hoffman, Freshman Steve Stockert, Freshman Scott Sontelik, and Sophomore Cliff Cook recollect the race. The team met with Coach Hoffman to discuss strategy and go over what they need to work on for their next meet.



Bounding to the Finish

Always striving hard to place at the finish line, Junior Claudia Nova-McCain is a major asset to the team. Nova-McCain was the most valuable runner for Merrillville, and showed it in all of the meets.

Breaking a Sweat

Out of breath, Junior Pauline Petrich nears the finish line in a tough meet. Petrich had a successful year this season, making it all the way to the semi-state.



Running for the Border

The pack of Pirates is coming. Freshman Allison Dyer, Sophomore Christine Leus, Freshman Dana Bolden, Junior Claudia Nova-McCain, Junior Jamie Sweeney, Junior Pauline Petrich, Sophomore Katie Wilson run in a cross country meet. They take nothing but number one.



Speed Is Not Everything

Pacing yourself is all part of the game. Sophomore Chrissy Leus knows that being in the lead is not everything.



Running Out of Time

Pushing herself to the finish line, Junior Jamie Sweeney does not give up. Running or walking, everybody finishes the race.

Rising to the Occasion

Beating Odds at Sectionals

With the loss of three key runners, the girls' Cross Country Team beat the odds at sectionals and advanced to the regional. "Everyone knew we lost all of our seniors, so they did not expect anything from us. It was a rebuilding year," said Junior Jamie Sweeney. Lacking seniors to set the pace and lead the way, the team relied on encouragement from Juniors Sweeney, Pauline Petrich and Claudia Navar-McCain. "I am used to getting the encouragement and now I have to give it," commented Petrich. Despite their ups and downs, the Pirates rose to the occasion at the sectional meet by taking fifth place. Petrich was the only runner to advance to semi-state from the regional.

One Meet Short of State

Leading the team across the finish line meet after meet, Junior Pauline Petrich showed a desire to compete at the state meet. After the team's regional-qualifying sectional finish, Petrich finished 14th out of the top 15 girls at regionals who advanced to semi-state. She was unable to qualify for the state meet, placing 108th at the semi-state competition.

Kicking It Up a Notch

With a spectacular fourth place finish at the Gavitt Invitational, the girls on the Cross Country Team proved themselves to be worthy contenders at sectionals. "It was against sectional competition and if we did good there, we had a good chance at sectionals," Junior Pauline Petrich said. After beating out six other teams, the Pirates showed their desire for the sectional title and took fourth place at the Gavitt Invitational. "We started to come together as a team," Petrich added. This team unity helped the team throughout the fluctuating season.

Team Scores

Quad Meet	4th
Gavitt Invitational	4th
T.F. South Invite	14th
Portage	49-15
Michigan City Tourney	6th
Habart/Michigan City	2nd
New Prairie	26th
LaPorte	41-20
Valparaiso	50-15
Highland Invite	11th
Crown Point	29-22
Chesterton	50-15
Clark Invite	4th
DAC Meet	7th
Sectional	5th

DAC Record	0-6
Dual Meet Record	0-5

Team Honors

MVP
Claudia Navar-McCain

Most Improved
Sarah Kwell

Sportsmanship
Jamie Sweeney

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by Kim Shapley

Captions
by Brittany Cobb

Layout
by Adam Milicevic



Accepting the Challenge

Team Scores

Jeffersonville	8th
Highland	L 2-3
Noblesville Tourney	2nd
Crown Point	L 4-1
LaPorte	L 4-1
Portage	W 4-1
Michigan City	L 2-3
Chesterton	W 3-2
Andean	L 0-5
Hobart	W 5-0
Merr. Invite	5th
Lake Central	L 1-4
Valparaiso	L 2-3
Munster	L 0-5
Roosevelt (S)	W 5-0
Andean (S)	L 5-0

DAC Record	3-4
Season Record	4-9

JV Record	2-9
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Team Strives to Succeed

The Pirates pulled together a 4-9 season led by only one senior, Chris Nahlik. With only a few returning varsity players, the young team had to work hard to get used to a new line-up. Three tournaments and 13 matches later, teamwork was no longer an issue. "Even though our season was not as good as we hoped, we still worked hard and played as a team," Sophomore David Uremovich said. The team stuck together through injuries and a streak of bad luck to finish strong and still have some fun. After losing two key seniors, the young team fought until the end. They had to try to live up to last year's success: reaching regionals. However, the season ended after losing to their cross-town rival, Andean, 5-0 in the sectional final.

Injuries Strike In

The team suffered sprains and pains throughout the entire season. After losing two players due to graduation, head coach Dave Zimmerman had to find a new line-up. Just when things got familiar and routine for the boys, the roster was mixed up again. The pressure increased as players had to step up. "With all the injuries throughout the season, it made it difficult to get a set line-up all year. Before heading into sectionals, the coaches were still juggling the line-up around which made things difficult, but that's what happens during an injury plagued season," Junior Cole Perkins said. Key players took a break in order to recover and left the Bucs with a setback. Number three singles player Junior Tony Stafko caused a shift in the Pirates' line-up. Unable to play for a short amount of time due to an accident, Stafko was one of several to be out of play throughout the season. Another incident broke up a strong number two doubles team of Perkins and Nahlik. Both Nahlik and Perkins were injured at some point during the year. Perkins sprained his ankle during a match. As soon as he recovered, Nahlik injured his leg, which prevented him from playing at full strength. A couple of injuries can bring days of new experiences to a team and drive the pressure high.

A Killer Serve

Reaching for the ace, Sophomore Dave Uremovich swings aggressively during sectionals. Uremovich, who played number two singles, finished the season with a personal record of 8-13.



Team Honors

MVP
Greg Brando

Most Improved
David Uremovich

Sportsmanship
Cole Perkins

Copy
by Kate Santeramo

Captions
by Kim Shapley

Layout
by David Uremovich

Stepping Up to the Plate

Being the only freshman on the varsity team did not stop Freshman Daniel Burkus from giving his opponents a tough match. Burkus played number two doubles for the Pirates this season.



Strike a Pose

Reaching for the overhead, Sophomore Greg Brando tries to seal another victory for the Pirates. Brando made All-Conference and All-District this season playing number one for the Pirates.

Causing a Racket

Hustling after the ball to keep it in play, Junior Josh Diehl reaches for the return. Diehl contributed greatly to the team's success.



Filling in the Holes

Playing for the win, Sophomore Josh Donahue scoops the ball up off of a shallow bounce. Donahue played the reserve position and filled in for injured teammates.

Waiting for the Attack

While Junior Cole Perkins serves for the ace, his doubles partner, Senior Chris Nahlik, awaits the return from their opponent. The consistency of Perkins and the steady improvement of Nahlik made them a winning pair.



In Full Swing

Long drives are part of the game for Sophomore Jacqueline Barsich. Barsich, the only returning golfer, competed at the number one spot.



What Was My Score Again?

Writing down her stats is all Freshmen Katie Spallaras can think about. Keeping track of your score is necessary in this accurate game.



Total Preparation

Being prepared is a key factor in lowering your score. Freshman Megan Frasca lines up the golf ball and aims for the win.

Concentrating on the Hole

Concentrating on sinking the put, Freshman Katie Coleman lines up her shot. Coleman played an important role for the team this year as a freshman.

Following through smoothly, Freshman Katie Coleman watches her long drive. Long drives, and short putts helped lower Coleman's score.



Getting in the Mood

State of mind is everything when approaching the course. Freshman Julie Coates mentally prepares herself for the match.

Girls' Golf Team

Rebuilds for Future

Sophomore Leads Pirates

The girls' Golf Team had a rebuilding year after coming up three strokes short from advancing to the Regional last year. The team started four freshmen and one sophomore. Sophomore Jacq Barsich led the team as the number one golfer and was named MVP. "Being a sophomore and being forced to play number one, it was frustrating," said Barsich, "but the freshman pulled together and played great." Barsich also noted the tremendous difference from last year. "Last year we had more seniors that were experienced. We had no leader this year, so I had to step up and play that role," Barsich added. Freshman Katie Coleman, who played the number three or four position, said that she had a lot of fun and learned a lot. "I expect the team to come back and we will all improve," said Coleman. Freshman Megan Frasca said that, although she had never played golf before, she plans to come back and improve over the summer.

Freshmen Take Initiative

As the girls' Golf Team started their year, the team was afraid that not many girls would try out. "I was very concerned that we wouldn't have any girls try out, and then we would not have been able to have a team," said Barsich. Five freshmen helped complete the team. Freshmen Julie Fabian, Julie Coates, Frasca, Katie Coleman and Katie Spolaris came out for the team and worked hard throughout the season. Most of the girls had not played golf before, but that did not stop them from trying out and making the team. "I had never played golf before but Megan Frasca encouraged me to and I wanted to learn the game," said Spolaris. The girls all plan to come back next year and work hard in the off-season. "I plan on going golfing with my friends and going to the driving range to help me," Spolaris added. "If everyone comes back and works in the off-season, we could contend and get out of sectionals," added Frasca. These freshmen plan to work hard in the offseason and try to win the coveted Sectional Championship.

Team Scores

KV Invite	11th
Boone Grove	L
Wheeler	W
Lawell	L
North Newton	L
Kankakee Valley	L
Chesterton	L
Munster	L
Calumet	W
Michigan City	L
Bishop Noll	L
Crown Point	L
Valparaiso	L
Hobart	L
Andean	L
Portage	L
LaPorte Invite	12th
Hanover	L
LaPorte	L
Lake Central	L
Sectionals	13th
DAC Record	0-7
Season Record	2-16

Team Honors

MVP
Jacqeline Barsich
Most Improved
Julie Coates
Sportsmanship
Jacqeline Barsich

Copy

by Dave Uremovich

Captions

by Corey Kudman

Layout

by Adam Milcovic

Go Team, Go!

Super Squad

This year was an exciting year for the Cheerleading Squad. With the addition of eight bays to the squad, the girls had more muscle to help them perform new stunts and mounts. Junior Captain Joey Jordan said the bays "always made sure everyone performed his or her duty as a cheerleader." The bays also added more spirit and enthusiasm to the squad. Together, they energized the crowds at football and basketball games. "It was a tough job to teach the bays the skills to the sport, but in the end our squad performed great overall," said Senior Katie Floyd.

Team Honors

MVP

Rachel Hammond

Most Improved

Christine Alala

Sportsmanship

Ronald Pedroza

Bringing Home the Gold

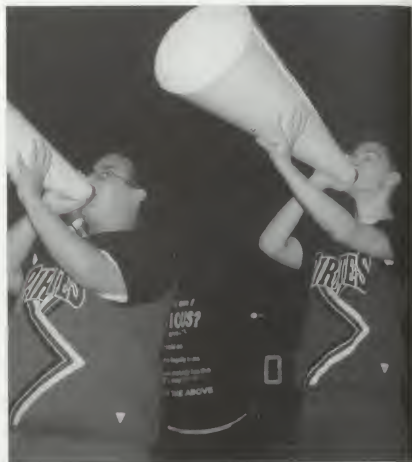
This year, the cheerleaders brought home more than enough awards from camp to last them a lifetime. The squad usually attends a cheerleading camp at Purdue University, but this year they chose to attend the National Cheerleader Association camp at St. Mary's College in South Bend. They endured four strenuous days of practice in the blistering sun, learning cheers, chants, stunts and jumps, as well as crazy dances. The squad took home the big awards, including Top Team All-around and Hurkey Team Award, as well as numerous spirit awards. They also earned a bid to nationals in Florida.

Different Atmospheres

Football and basketball season are different cheering atmospheres. During football season the squad cheers outside in unpredictable weather, ranging from the muggy heat in August to the cold rains of late September. They spend the winter months along the sidelines of the basketball court without having to worry about the weather outside. Junior Theresa Schubert had a tough time choosing her favorite season. "I like being able to dance at basketball games," Schubert said. The different cheering environments provide the squad with a variety of opportunities to show their spirit. However, the season eventually has to come to an end. For Seniors Rachel Hammond, Kelly Polster, Jennifer Sierra, Brittany Cobb, Melissa Vargas and Theresa Sciacotta, the good times they had will always remain in their memories.

Let's Go Pirates

Overpowering the girls with their mighty voices, Freshman Ronnie Pedroza and Mark Wieneke yell chants through their megaphones. This year the boys have played a major role in the squad's routines by supplying more muscle for the stunts.



Flying High

With elegance and beauty, Senior Jennifer Sierra performs an arabesque during a time out. Of the schools in Northwest Indiana, MHS cheerleaders are renowned for their stunting abilities.

Copy

by Sammy Grzesek

Captions

by Elena Gonzalez

Layout

by Kim Shapley





Showing Spirit

Helping the team with his strength, Junior Joey Jordan bases Senior Kelly Polster as she spirits to the crowd in a shoulder sit. The number of guys trying out for the squad increased from past years.

What's Your Number?

The varsity cheerleaders call out to students in each class to shout their graduation year. The squad gets the students involved in the game with this competitive chant.



Having Fun

Pleasing the crowd and entertaining the team, Seniors Brittany Cobb and Rachel Hammond get their groove on during a break in one of the basketball games. The cheerleaders incorporated dancing into their cheering performances.

Say Cheese

Surrounding Coach Lori Gavert, Senior cheerleaders Brittany Cobb, Theresa Scaccatella, Jennifer Sierra, Rachel Hammond, Kelly Polster and Katie Flayd take a break to strike a pose during half-time. The seniors led the squad at practices and performances throughout the season.



The Lost Boys

For the "Hook" football half-time performance, Juniors Dominique Henry, Caitlin Floyd, Felcio Parks and Trevis Ramos dress as abandoned orphans from Never Land. Dressing up in unique costumes was one of the perks of being a dancer.



Bustin' a Move

During the half-time performance of the Student-Faculty Basketball Game, Senior Tamara Bowen danced the last dance of her high school dance career. The dance team performed to the song "Fire".



All Smiles

Chatting before the football game, Sophomores Joanne Flores, Megan Sobierajski and Jennifer Mustafa discuss plans for competition. Being members of the dance team was a memorable experience for these performers.



Dancing Queens

Smiling for a picture after their performance, Seniors Eleno Gonzalez, Carey Ruckman, Melissa Stewart, Sarah Stockert, Tamara Bowen, Ronisha Pratt, Krissy Fleck and Ginger Francis take a moment to cherish one of their last football games. The Dance Team performed with the band during the football Homecoming game.

Dancin' in the Street

Showing spirit for the Fourth of July Parade spectators, the Dance Team makes its way down Broadway. The team excites the crowd with a new routine every year during the parade.



N Sync

Putting their hearts into their performance, the Dance Team performs at the Regional Competition at Portage High School. The team danced to the song "Trust" by Janet Jackson and placed sixth in the competition.

Love for Dance

Practice Makes Perfect

When it comes to competition, members of the Merrillville Dance Team give their all to the important event. In order to prepare themselves for competition, the Dance Team practiced after school four days a week and Saturday mornings. Practices lasted two hours and began with a running sequence and a warm-up exercise. The Dance Team attended the Munster Invite and earned second place. They compete at the Munster Invite every year and always look forward to that performance. The Dance Team also competed in the Portage Regional competition. The dancers received sixth place in their division. These things could not have been accomplished without the dedicated practice of every dancer.

A New Start

Michelle Bradon, the new head coach of the Merrillville Dance Team, began coaching here in October. The Dance Team was having a late start on their basketball season routines and Bradon helped the team tie up the loose ends for their performance. As a coach, Bradon worked hard to adjust to her new squad's techniques and dancing styles. By organizing practices and competitions, Bradon helped the Dance Team become independent dancers. Adjusting to a new coach took time, but the team came together in the end.

Tightly Knit Squad

As they wiped their tears from their faces, the senior dancers took a last bow to the audience after their final half-time performance. Their routine included a history of each senior dancer, going as far back as middle school. Every year the senior dancers perform alone during half-time on Senior Night. The seniors practiced their routine for a month, with each girl adding her touch of flair to the dance. "We had been planning out our dance since freshman year," Senior Ronisha Pratt said. During the performance the dancers displayed mixed emotions of crying and laughing. Senior Elena Gonzalez said, "Senior night was my best moment this year because even though it symbolized all the seasons together, I felt it symbolized me also."

Team Honors

MVP

Ronisha Pratt

Most Improved

Joanne Flores

Sportsmanship

Theresa Nixon

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by Jennifer Sierra

Captions

by Allen Bobowsky

Layout

by Kim Shapley



Team Scores

Highland	W 54-26
Munster	W 65-56
South Bend LaSalle	W 67-57
Andrean	L 56-51
Michigan City	W 65-48
Roosevelt	L 58-53 OT
Griffith	L 49-43 OT
South Central	L 73-61
Mishowauko Marion	L 64-54
Lafayette C. C.	L 78-58
Crown Point	W 56-55
LaPorte	W 79-60
Lake Central	W 67-56
Hobart	W 48-23
Portage	W 60-51
Boone Grove	W 49-45
Chesterton	W 44-38
Hammond Govit	W 49-27
Valparaiso	L 54-42
E C. Central	L 50-40
Penn	W 55-54
Crown Point (S)	W 64-59
Valparaiso (S)	L 53-52

DAC Record	6-1
Season Record	14-9
JV Record	16-3
Freshman Record	18-2

Team Honors

MVP
Justin Johnson
Most Improved
Lovell Cook
Sportsmanship
Allen Bobowsky

Copy

by Kelly Palster

Captions

by Brittany Cobb

Layout

by Rachel Hammond

Season Full of Surprises

A Season of Ups and Downs

The season started off slowly, but picked up as the team gained more game experience. Sophomore Lovell Cook said, "The team started off slow because we haven't played together very much in the past, but when we got used to each other, it helped us to win more games." The Pirates won 10 of the last 13 games of the season, giving a boost to their final record of 14-9. However, their chance to take home the Duneland Athletic Conference title for the fourth year in a row fell short with a tough loss to rival Valparaiso. The Pirates took second place with a DAC record of 6-1. They quickly bounced back and beat Crown Point in the first round of sectionals to give them another chance to beat the Vikings. However, the final buzzer sounded before the Pirates had the chance to get revenge. The Pirates lost to the Vikings with a final score of 53-52.

Senior Leadership

Seniors Allen Bobawsky, Wesley Doty and Justin Johnson proved themselves to be influential leaders of the team by paving the road to victory for the Pirates game after game. The three boys have been active in Merrillville High School basketball since their freshman year. "It was a pleasure having these three players with us and we will miss them dearly," said Coach Jim East.

And the Future...

The future of Merrillville boys' basketball is shining brightly. Returning for the Pirates are Juniors Igor Rsteveski and Chris Harris and Sophomore Lovell Cook. With outstanding JV and freshman records, the Pirates have ample talent in the making. Senior Wesley Doty said that "the freshmen coming up are the truth." One prospect, Freshman Josh Mayo, displayed some potential on the floor during the last few varsity games. Mayo led the Pirates in scoring against Valparaiso in the second round of sectionals.

Future Billiken

Posting up against the Michigan City defense, Senior Justin Johnson grips the ball firmly with the intent to score. Johnson hopes to continue his basketball career by playing for St. Louis University next year.



Crossing Over

Switching hands to shake the defense, Junior Chris Harris hopes to "break his opponent's ankles" with a lightning fast crossover dribble. As the starting point guard, Harris brought the ball up the court time after time and made key passes in the team's offense sets.



Right Direction

Pointing frantically at his players, Coach Jim East yells to his players on the court to give them advice. Under Coach East's direction the team improved throughout the season, going 10-3 in their last 13 games.

Two the Easy Way

Scoring two easy points, Sophomore Lowell Cook goes up for the lay-up after a steal. Leading the team in steals, Cook is quick on the court with his hands and feet.



Concentration is the Key

As he focuses on the basket, Senior Wesley Doty heads to the line after being fouled. Doty motivated the team with his communication on and off the court.

The Risteovski Runner

Attacking the basket, Junior Igor Risteovski looks for a clear path down the baseline. Contributing to the team with his shooting skills, Risteovski proved to be a key player this season.



Strategizing For Success

Planning his next maneuver, Senior Mike Rodriguez attempts to turn his opponent around to pin him to the mat. Rodriguez was one of the three seniors on the team this season.



Twist n' Shout

Performing a turn around move on his opponent, Sophomore Tam Vechey goes for the win. Vechey played a huge part in the team's outstanding season.

Taking Him Down

Performing a take down move, Senior Chris Gabriel gets ready to pin his opponent. Gabriel, a senior captain, was a strong leader for this year's team.



Don't Mess With the Best

Going for the quick victory, Senior Joseph Thomas makes his opponent suffer. Thomas' record this season proved he was an outstanding wrestler. He backed up his state ranking by placing 9th in the 171 lb. weight class at the state meet in Indianapolis.

Listening and Learning

Instructing Sophomore Trent Harris during a time out, Head Coach Randy Qualitza and Assistant Coach Kevin Jolas give him a few pointers. Harris competed in the 275 lb. weight class this season for the Pirates.





Turning Up the Heat

Taking control of the match, Junior Brean Harris prepares to put away his opponent and finish his match. Harris, named most improved after the '01-'02 season, also had great individual success this season.

Pack Leaders

Seniors lead the way for Pirates

Paving the way toward victory, Senior Co-Captains Chris Gabriel and Joseph Thomas have motivated the team to achieve their goals. "This year I tried to lead the team through example and my big smile," said Thomas. Gabriel was also a big influence on the team with a personal record of 32-5. "This year we had a young team, so I tried to lead the team with my experience and dedication," stated Gabriel. The JV and the underclassmen varsity members have big shoes to fill after the three seniors leave, but "the future looks bright for them," said Coach Randy Qualitza. "We definitely appreciated the senior leadership we had this past season. Next season's team knows what they have to do to be successful through their example."

Giving Their All

Wrestling is not just a sport. It takes time, dedication and strength. Many of the wrestlers on the Pirate wrestling squad have learned that in order to be the best, they must give their all. "When the coaches told me that if I worked hard for six minutes in a match, anyone would have a hard time beating me, I listened to the coaches, and ultimately I made it to the State Finals at Conesco," said Thomas, who finished ninth in the state. MHS wrestlers were successful also, having a dual meet record of 17-11 against some formidable opponents.

There is No I in Team

Differing from other sports, wrestling does involve individuals. One thing that MHS wrestlers have found is that team unity is the only key toward victory. "This year all of us went in with high hopes. We knew what had to be done and what it takes. Chris, Joseph and I, all being the only seniors, tried to motivate the team to reach their full potential. I believe wrestling is five percent physical and ninety-five percent mental," stated Senior Michael Rodriguez. Although each wrestler tries to have a winning record, each one knows that his win contributes to the team's victory, whether in individual meets or tournaments. MHS wrestlers have learned that teamwork is the main ingredient to victory.

Team Scores

Culver Triple Duals	1st
Portage	L 42-20
Crown Point	L 30-30
Lake Central Super 6	5th
Munster Super 8	1st
Chesterton	W 48-20
Pirate Super 6	4th
Michigan City	W 38-27
Hobart	W 39-24
Valparaiso	L 47-16
LaPorte	L 45-25
DAC Conference	4th
Sectionals	4th

DAC Record	3-4
Season Record	17-11

Team Honors

MVP
Chris Gabriel

Most Improved
Brean Harris

Sportsmanship
Philip Patterson

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by Elena Gonzalez

Captions
by Erin Morgan

Layout
by David Uremovich



Return to State

Team Scores

Michigan City	W106.5-83.7
Lowell	W
Habart	W 108.77-99.80
Ft. Wayne Concordia	2nd
LaPorte	W 107.75-101.22
Pirate Pride Invite	1st
Portage	W 106.57-103.02
Chesterton	L 110.32-107.82
Valparaiso	L 111.225-109.65
Crown Point	W 105.47-100
DAC Meet	2nd Place
Sectionals	2nd Place
Regionals	2nd Place
State Meet	3rd Place

DAC Record	5-2
Season Record	6-2

Pirates Up to Par

In the previous years, the Merrillville Gymnastics Team has proven to be quite a force to be reckoned with. This year, however, with new leadership the Pirates are finding their ground. With Senior Melissa Vargas and Junior Kara Lux leading the way, the gymnasts proved to be quite a challenge for Valparaiso, but always came right behind Chesterton. They earned their rank as second in the state. Merrillville, who was ranked fifth at the start of the season, beat Valparaiso during all the big meets, and finished third at state. During the season the gymnasts had a problem trying to find their lost varsity member. After losing Katie Dyer, and having three freshmen contending with Sophomores Jenna Hill and Julie Collins, the team tried to put the pieces together. Freshmen Lindsey Sharp, Taesia Alford and Jacqueline Hartford gained valuable experience for next year while helping the team advance to the state competition again.

Boost of Confidence

Over the past years, the Gymnastics Team has been the Pirate Pride Invite champions. This year was no different. Winning the invite brought the team to a new level of confidence. Merrillville defeated 11 other teams at the tournament with a score of 109.9, their highest score of the season. Everything began to come together. The team began to show steady improvement after winning the Pirate Invite.

The Road to State

Being the underdogs all year, Merrillville really turned some heads by going to state. Merrillville beat Valpo at regionals to advance to state. After losing to Valparaiso during the regular season, they went on to nudge Valparaiso at the DAC Meet sectionals and regionals. "People had their doubts that we weren't going to qualify as a team," commented Lux. The rivalry with Chesterton helped the team work toward another trip to state. The Gymnastics Team placed third in Indianapolis at the state meet. Merrillville finished behind Chesterton as they took home first place. Also adding to the team's reputation were Junior Katie Tanis who placed third on floor and Lux who placed fourth on vault.

Light as a Feather

While performing on the floor, Freshman Lindsey Sharp does a shushanova in the air. Placing her arms in front prepares her for the landing.



Strike a Pose

Waiting for the music to start, Junior Katie Tanis holds her starting pose for the floor exercise. The floor exercise consists of a routine of tricks and tumbling accompanied by music.

Team Honors

MVP
Kara Lux

Most Improved
Jenna Hill

Sportsmanship
Melissa Vargas

Copy
by Tammy Grzesek

Captions
by Jennifer Sierro

Layout
by David Uremovich





Beam Me Up!

Flying high above the balance beam, Senior Melissa Vargas performs a camel jump. A gymnast's performance on the beam takes concentration, coordination and balance.

Casting High

In perfect form, Junior Katie Tanis performs a giant on the uneven bars. Tanis does this move well with simplicity.



Small But Mighty

Concentrating on her next move, Junior Kara Lux performs gracefully on the balance beam. As one of the top gymnasts in the state, Lux never fails to strive for an outstanding performance.

Go Team!

Directing their attention toward the floor exercise, Freshman Lindsey Sharp and Senior Melissa Vargas show team support by rooting for their teammates. The gymnasts special bond with each other was evident to the fans.



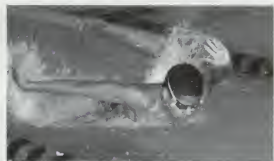
All in the Determination

Junior Dave Rooda swims the 100 fly. Rooda is a second year swimmer who received the Sportsmanship Award during the Winter Sports Banquet.



Gasp and Go

Gasping for air between strokes, Junior Tony Stofko swims the 200 freestyle. Stofko is a second year swimmer.



Pressing Forward

Junior Michael Wadley competes in the 100 butterfly race. Wadley joined the high school team as a freshman after several years in the Merrillville Aquatic Club.



Breathing Like a Whale

Turning his head to catch a quick breath, Junior Josh Diaz swims the 100 freestyle. Now in his second year of swimming, Diaz placed 14th in sectionals.

State Diver

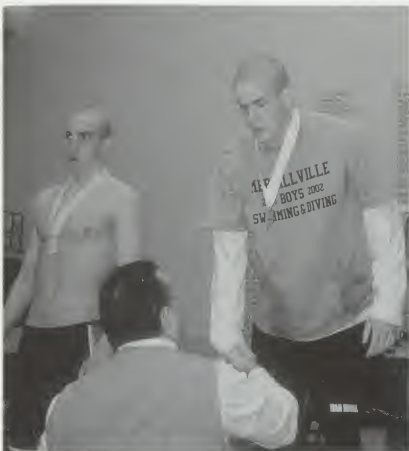
In the pike position, Freshman Tommy Sivka dives for the water. He is the only male diver for the Pirates. Sivka placed second at sectionals, seventh at regionals and advanced to state.



Swimming to Win

Swimming to Victory

After placing third in the 100 freestyle during the 2002 state finals in Indianapolis, Senior Tim Randolph accepts his medal. Randolph placed fifth in this event during the 2001 state finals.



Working Til the End

After breaking the school record and placing second in sectionals, the relay team of Senior Tim Randolph, Juniors Chris Adams and Tim Balko and Freshman Aran Okidich swam the 200 freestyle relay at the state finals. The relay team placed 18th out of 32 teams.

Boy's Aim Their Sights on State

This year the boys took competition as personal as anyone. They wanted to advance to the state meet, as they had last year. To get ready for the year of competition, official training started in August with dry land training. Gradually the practices moved into the pool and focused on endurance. "Like any other sport, we train to improve. Practices are hard, but we do whatever we can to get ready, including running circles in the parking lot," said Junior Tim Balko. Practicing everyday, sometimes twice a day, at 5 a.m., after school or on Saturday mornings, they worked up the stamina to be their best. Many swim all summer, making it a year-round sport. The hard work paid off. The boys had a successful season and reached their goal to make it down to state.

Bad Hair Day?

From their original style hair, to growing it all out, to dying it blonde, to shaving crazy designs on their heads, to shaving it all off, the boys did it all to their hair in order to boost their spirits. The team wasn't supposed to get haircuts the entire season until sectionals. Junior Chris Adams said, "It was more of a mental thing. We thought that if we had a lot of hair, it would slow us down; so by the time we got to sectionals and state, we'd shave it all off to improve our times." These crazy antics obviously worked. They planned every step of their trendy hairstyles as they advanced in the post-season. Senior Tim Randolph said, "The relay team messed with our hair as a team unity type thing. It really helped pump us up." The boys were psyched up and ready to go at sectionals and state.

All the Way Down...

To state, that is. Randolph, Juniors Balko and Adams, Freshmen Aran Okidich and diver Tammy Slivka all traveled to the state tournament. Randolph placed fifth in the 50 freestyle and third in the 100 freestyle race. Randolph said, "I hoped to do a little better, but I really just wanted to have fun this season. Overall, I was happy with my performance." Randolph, Balko, Adams and Okidich, the 200 free relay team, placed 18th. Slivka, the only diver the Merrillville team sent down, placed 31st. Overall, the boys triumphed with a 22nd place as a team at the state meet.

Team Scores

Portage	L 99-86
Rensselaer	W 90-86
Hobart	W 108-70
Highland	L 103-83
Crown Point	L 107-79
Griffith	W 100-82
LaPorte Invite	5th
Valparaiso	L 93-90
Lawell	W 111-70
Kankakee Valley	W 111-69
Michigan City	W 108-77
LaPorte	W 100-85
Munster	L 109-79
Chesterton	L 116-62
DAC Meet	5th
Sectionals	3rd
State	22nd
DAC Record	3-4
Season Record	7-6

Team Honors

MVP
Timothy Randolph
Most Improved
Nikola Sribinaski
Sportsmanship
Dave Raada

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Captions
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Layout
by David Uremovich



Catching a Breath

Racing down the lane, Junior Randa Fruehling turns her head to take a breath. Fruehling swam the freestyle heat for the Pirates.



Team Scores

Lawell	W 103-81
Chesterlan	L 133-59
Partridge	L
Rensselaer	L 101-83
Habart	W 125-61
Highland	L 107-79
Crown Point	L 104-76
Griffith	W 104.5-80.5
Valparaiso	L 117-68
Michigan City	L 109-76
LaPorte	L 112-73
Munster	L 120-63
Sectionals	4th Place

DAC Record	1-6
Season Record	3-9

Keeping the Faith

New Faces, New Beginning

The Merrillville girls' Swimming Team has come a long way since last year. The team was young, consisting of two seniors and many first-year swimmers. "The older members took a lot of time to show the new members the ropes and how things are done," Sophomore Heather Casady said. "With all the new and younger swimmers it should help us grow stronger in the years to come." "The new members really stepped up to the plate and proved themselves," Senior Danielle Molchan added.

Coming Together

Working together as a team is one of the most important lessons to learn in any sport. Giving praise and cheering on fellow teammates is a key to victory. Coach Brian Angerman said, "I am very proud of how the team came together, and how they supported each other throughout the season." The girls stood along the edge of the pool and encouraged their teammates until the end of the heat. Sophomore Jennifer Mustafa said, "We worked really well together as a team."

Taking it to State

The team worked really hard this year to accomplish personal goals and team goals. Although the team did not win every meet, some members did qualify for state. Seniors Danielle Molchan and Lisa Ross qualified for state in Indianapolis for the fourth consecutive year. Molchan qualified for the 100 yard freestyle and 100 yard backstroke. Ross qualified for the 200 individual medley and the 500 yard free style. Ross said, "I went under five minutes, ten seconds, which was my goal for state."

Flying High

Fear is not a factor for Sophomore Elise Szany. Szany attempts to complete the perfect dive at a home meet.



Team Honors

MVP

Lisa Ross

Most Improved

Ashley Jones

Sportsmanship

Melissa Wadley

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by Carey Ruckman

Captions

by Lauren Strom

Layout

by Kim Shapley





Ready for a Splash?

Sliding through the surface, Junior Julie Trimble tries to keep her form straight. Trimble was a key swimmer for the Pirates.

Skimming the Surface

Winning races is not a problem for Senior Lisa Ross. As team captain, Ross led the Pirates. She qualified for state for the fourth consecutive year. Ross finished 4th in the 500 freestyle and 200 individual medley.



Putting Her Best Stroke Forward

Swimming for first place, Sophomore Melissa Wadley races with determination. Wadley won the team sportsmanship award.

Go Team, Go!

Cheering from the edge of the pool, Sophomores Erika Larson and Megan Diaz support their teammates during the meet. Team support is a main ingredient of success.

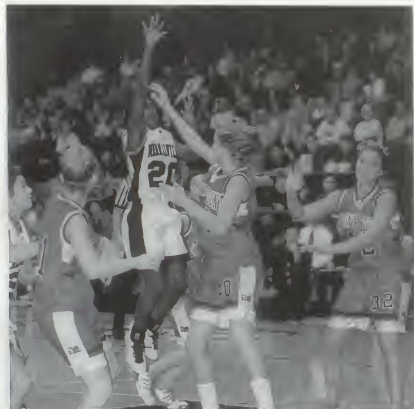


Hey, Hey, Hey, it's Marshay

Dribbling up the court, Sophomore Marshay Jolly looks to pass to an open teammate. Jolly proved to be one of the key players for the Pirates to have on the court.

Jumping for Joy

Coming through the lane, Freshman Brittany Ursery shoots high above the Crown Point defenders. Ursery was a starting point guard for the Pirates this year.

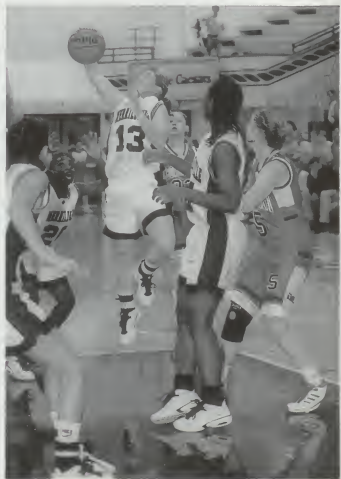


Showing Spirit

Cheering on their teammates from their home bench, Senior Julie Seagroves, Junior Koren Davis and Junior Kim Shapley encourage the players on the court. Behind the first row, Coach Ron Kurth and Sophomores Jocelene Barsich and Tianna Coleman intently watch the game.

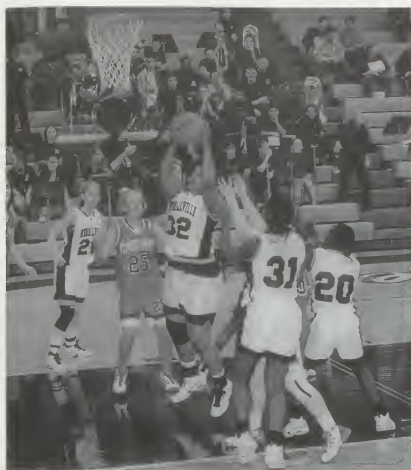
High in the Sky

Snagging the ball out of the air, Senior Julie Seagroves wins the battle of the boards against her Crown Point opponents. Seagroves was an emotional leader on and off court.



Attacking the Glass

Going up strong for the rebound, Junior Karen Davis clears out the paint. Davis was a force in the middle for the Pirates.



Strong With the Ball

Looking to get out of the Crown Point defense jam, Senior Heather Renehan tries to pass the ball to a teammate. Renehan will be remembered for her main specialty, the three-point basket.

No Easy Competition

Lady Pirates Compete with the Area's Best Competition

The Merrillville girls Basketball Team started the season ready to dominate. They felt that after the way they played last year, the team would be ready to win a sectional. Unfortunately, their goal came up a little short as they lost to Valparaiso, the Duneland Athletic Conference Champions, in the first round of sectionals by the score of 52-25. Finishing with a season record of 6-13, 1-6 in conference play, the girls worked hard to perform their best. The team was competitive in all of their games, with 9 of their 13 losses being lost by 9 points or less. "They competed real well. All the teams that we played had five to eight seniors. It shows promises for next year," said Coach Joe Poteet. Jolly, the team's leading scorer, was named to the All-DAC team and the All-Area second team. Jolly received an all-conference nomination for the second year in a row and scored over 500 points. With the starting five consisting of two sophomores and a freshman, Coach Poteet believes the future looks bright for Merrillville girls' basketball.

Seniors Special to Poteet

Finishing off their high school career, the three seniors led the MHS girls' Basketball Team. Julie Seagraves, Heather Renehan and Melissa Sanchez have played basketball together all four years of high school. Coach Poteet came to Merrillville four years ago when these girls were freshmen. "They're special to me because they were the first to be with me for all four years," said Coach Poteet. Renehan loved Coach Poteet and his coaching style. "I liked him a lot. He was always there to help us, and he wanted us to improve," said Renehan. Breaking the three-point record for the MHS girls' basketball program made Renehan's last season even more memorable. Coach Poteet enjoyed the girls and thought they worked hard. "Each year I ask the seniors to leave something behind, and this year they left behind a great work ethic," said Coach Poteet.

Team Scores

Highland	L 49-25
Wheeler	W 51-46
Logansport	W 49-46
E. C. Central	L 41-32
Michigan City	W 67-56
Crown Point	L 68-35
Munster	L 69-51
LaPorte	L 49-47
Griffith	W 52-44
Lowell	L 40-36
S. B. Riley Invite	5th Place
Hobart	L 47-42
Lew Wallace	W 85-45
Lake Central	L 61-33
Portage	L 62-59
Chesterton	L 54-45
Andean	L 71-69 OT
Valparaiso	L 43-34
Morton	W 61-49
Valparaiso ISI	L 50-25

DAC Record	1-6
Season Record	8-14

JV Record	5-15
Freshman Record	3-14

Team Honors

MVP
Marshay Jolly

Most Improved
Tiana Coleman

Sportsmanship
Julie Seagraves

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Captions
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Layout
by Kim Shapley



Record Breakers

State Contenders

Senior leadership is key to the success of every team. Coach Johnston relied on his seniors to set the tone for the season and help the underclassmen. The team was led in scoring by Seniors Dave Neville and Jeff Meding. Meding was the Sectional and Regional Champion for pole vaulting, and finished fourth in the state with a jump of 14 feet 6 inches.

He earned the privilege of competing in the All Star Midwest Meet of Champions. This meet will give him the opportunity to break the current pole vaulting record of 14 feet 9 inches. If Meding clears a height of 15 feet, he will be the new school record holder. As the top runner on the team, Neville broke school records for the 400, 200 and 100-meter dashes. He also set a new state record in the 400-meter dash with a time of 46.99 seconds. Neville kept the string alive for Merrillville by winning the third consecutive state title for the Pirates. As a result of his accomplishments, Neville received an invitation to compete in the "Invite Gold West." This is an opportunity to compete as one of the top eight runners in the United States this summer in California.

Consecutive Titles

The Pirates won their fifth consecutive sectional title this year and tied for third at regionals with West Side. Coach Jim Johnston said, "The team may lose in a one on one meet against another DAC team, but they always seem to beat their DAC opponents in the bigger meets. After a great season finishing seventh in the state, there is a positive outlook for next year's team. We have a lot of returning juniors that will be a great contributing factor." Meding said, "Track was great this year because we had a good group of guys out for the team. The team also got along well. From practices to the meets, it was a fun year." The team aims to continue the string of sectional titles and return to state next year with more competitors.

Going the Distance

Spinning the disc, Senior Tom Sovich attempts to launch the discus farther than his opponent. Placing 4th in the discus and 7th in the shot put at sectionals, Sovich advanced to regionals.



Loosen Up

Using the hurdle to stretch his leg, Senior Claude Powers prepares for his upcoming events of long jump, high jump and 110-meter high hurdles. Powers placed 4th at sectionals in the high hurdles and advanced to regionals.

Team Scores

Chesterton	L 75-58
Portage Invite	2nd
Laporte	W 89-56
Hobart	W 89-22
Michigan City	W 62-19
Valparaiso	L 86-16

DAC Record 4:3

Team Honors

MVP
Dove Neville

Most Improved
Tom Sovich

Sportsmanship
Jeff Meding

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Eat My Dust

With speed and determination, Senior David Neville blazes around the track during the 400-meter dash. As the top runner in the state, Neville contributed to the team's 5th consecutive Sectional Championship.



High Hurdler

Gliding over the hurdle with ease, Senior Daren Cudjoe combines his speed and jumping ability while competing in the 100-meter high hurdles. Cudjoe was a double winner at the sectional meet by placing 1st in the 100-meter high hurdles and the 300-meter hurdles.

3, 2, 1... Blast Off

Taking off for air travel, Sophomore Brandon Masley soars over the sand pit. Masley competed in the long jump and the hurdles this season.



We're No. 1!

After being named sectional champs, Senior Jeff Meding, Junior Jared Byczko, Senior David Neville and Sophomore Jhrome Tuggle gather around the trophy. They competed as the 4x400-meter relay team that placed 1st at sectionals and 4th at regionals.



Speed With Ease

Sprinting down the straightaway, Sophomore Jhrome Tuggle attempts to stay ahead of his Viking opponent before handing the baton to his teammate. Tuggle's speed was crucial in that leg of the race.



Determination Required

Balancing over the hurdles, Saphamare Kaneshia Jennings focuses on making her way to the finish line. Jennings competed in the 100-meter hurdles.



Fun in the Sand

Taking a long jump, Junior Alysia Farney leaps into the sand for victory. Farney placed 6th in the 100-meter dash at regionals and was the first leg of the 400-meter Relay Team, which advanced to state by placing 2nd at regionals.



Steady Pace

Striving to stay ahead of her opponent, Saphamare Rosalinda Sanchez maintains a steady pace. Sanchez competed in the 3200-meter Relay, which earned 6th place at sectionals.



Got Ups?

Keeping her cool, Senior Anelida Apante clears the bar in the high jump. Although it was Apante's first season competing in the high jump, she was the leading high jumper for the Pirates and cleared a height of 4 feet 10 inches.





Staying on Track

Ready for Action

With the intention of keeping the title of Sectional Champion, the Merrillville girls Track Team started off the season with a bang. Despite losses to two of the area's best teams during the regular season, Valparaiso and Chesterton, the team did not let up. They felt this helped them for the post-season meets. However, their goal to remain sectional champions fell short with a third place finish. The team advanced to regionals and earned fifth place. Only the top three teams were able to advance. Although the season ended for the team, many individuals earned the honor of advancing to state. Sophomore Lindsey Solomon placed third in the shot put at regionals. Junior Alyssa Fartney, Freshman Dana Bolden, Junior Candice Woods and Freshman Stephanie Neville placed second in the 400-meter Relay. Junior Pauline Petrucci advanced in the 800-meter dash as well as Junior Gloria Peay in the 400-meter dash. At the state meet, Peay placed 16th in the 400, Petrucci placed 24th in the 800, and Solomon placed 19th in the shot put.

Team Scores

Merrillville Invite	1st
Indoor Meet	2nd
Indoor Meet	1st
Chesterton	L 67-56
Crown Point	L 62-49
Portage	W 49-45
W. Lafayette Relays	3rd
LaPorte	W 77-44
Habart	W 44-35
Michigan City	W 49-10
Valparaiso	L 97-49
DAC	3rd
Sectionals	3rd
Regionals	5th
DAC Record	43

Team Honors

MVP
Gloria Peay

Most Improved
Lindsey Solomon

Sportsmanship
Haatal Dave

All in the Family

Stepping out of the shadow of her brother, Senior David Neville, Freshman Stephanie Neville displays her speed in the 100-meter dash. The 4x1 Relay Team, which Neville competes in, qualified for state.

Up and Over

With a few hurdles left to go, Freshman Allison Dyer devotes herself to winning. Dyer participated in the 100-meter hurdles and on the 400-meter relay team throughout the season.

Team Encouragement

This season, the girls Track team had newcomers eager to participate and seniors looking forward to a successful season. Despite the outcome, teammates helped each other in many ways. "Everyone was supportive of each other. We all got along really well and tried to encourage each other at every opportunity," said Petrucci. Solomon, who has been participating in track since elementary school, seemed like a veteran rather than a freshman. "A few seniors will be leaving us after this year but we will have plenty of upcoming freshman. Hopefully we can get more people down to the state meet next year," said Solomon. High hopes have been set for competing as a team at state next year.



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Layout
by Kim Shapley



Slammin' Season

Team Scores

Hammond High	W 9-1
Morton	W 9-1
Hobart	W 9-3
Crown Point	W 5-3
Kankakee Valley	W 2-1
Chesterton	W 7-5
Valparaiso	W 12-0
LaPorte	L 5-0
Munster Tourney	L 5-11, 6-2
Portage	W 4-0
Michigan City	W 10-3
Lowell	W 5-3
Hobart	W 2-0
Crown Point	W 7-0
Chesterton	W 7-5
Valparaiso	L 4-1
LaPorte	W 12-3
Highland	W 6-4
Portage	W 9-3
Michigan City	L 8-4
Bishop Noll	W 4-1
Kankakee Valley	W 6-3
Andean	L 12-0
Munster	W 2-1, W 3-1
Portage (S)	W 2-1
Valparaiso (S)	L 8-1

DAC Record 11-3

Season Record 20-6

Success Requires Hard Work

The Pirates started off the season with a winning streak. With strong defense and aggressiveness at the plate, the Pirates defeated Morton, Hobart, Crown Point, Kankakee Valley, Chesterton and Valparaiso within the first two weeks of the season. The team was ranked by a local newspaper as one of the "Top Ten" teams in the region. The players have worked vigorously to improve their batting, fielding, base running and all other key aspects of the game. "The team has become a better fundamental baseball team by making less mental errors on the bases and in the field," said Coach Zac Wells. The team began conditioning in January to prepare for the upcoming season. "Our workout schedule increased our athletic abilities," said Junior Eric Morris. Increased athletic ability aided the Pirates in winning 20 of the 26 games played in the regular season.

Senior Domination

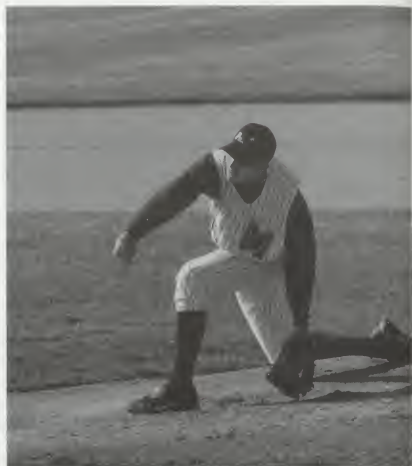
If a coach could give out ten Most Valuable Player awards, it would make the decision much easier. Like any baseball team, the Pirates have team captains, key players and MVP's. The team captains this season, Seniors Steve Gill, Jason Giordano and Chris Gabriel, have the job of keeping the team together. The senior clan led the pack of Pirates in improving their batting and fielding skills. "The ten returning seniors are key," said Gabriel. Throughout the season, the seniors have stepped up to show the underclassmen how to play the game. Coach Wells said, "Seniors will either make the team or break the team. The leadership that seniors provided was extremely important."

New Leader

With a new head coach, changes can be expected. Many players have worked with Coach Wells in past JV baseball and football seasons. "We have had Coach Wells for most of our baseball careers and he is a good coach who all of us respect," said Giordano. Other players have learned to make adjustments to a new coaching style. This style has proved to be successful in helping the team have an enjoyable winning season. "We are just having fun playing baseball and winning games," said Gill.

Following Through

After releasing his pitch, Senior Justin Curtis follows through with his windup. Curtis had a successful season with a winning record of 8-3.



Team Honors

- MVP
Steve Gill
- Most Improved
Chris Gabriel
- Sportsmanship
Jason Giordano

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by Lauren Stram

Captions

by Erin Morgan

Layout

by Kim Shapley



Defending His Territory

Before the runner could make it safely to the base, Senior Jason Giordano tags him out to complete the play. Giordano, the starting third baseman, was one of ten seniors who led the team on and off the field.



Big Hitter

Hitting the ball with all his might, Senior Steve Gill aims for the fence. Gill will be playing baseball at Butler University next year.

Finishing the Play

Checking out the action, Sophomore Jason Prys watches Senior Brentan Robinson tag second base and look to throw to first. The Pirates' defense was essential to their winning season.



Caught Red-Handed

While waiting for the ball, Senior Ryan Rameo blocks his opponent from returning safely to first base. As a first baseman for the Pirates, Rameo's playing time was restricted due to a hand injury.

Sliding to Safety

With a look of determination, Senior Chris Gabriel slides back safely to the base. Gabriel was the starting catcher this season for the Pirates.

Servin' It Up

Aiming for an ace, Junior Cosady Pruitt swings with all her might while serving to her opponent. Competing as the No. 1 singles player, Pruitt placed first at the Jasper Tournament this season.



High Hopes

Reaching for the ball, Senior Julie Lesniak returns it with an overhead. During her final season for the Protees, Lesniak played every match with a desire to win.



Non-Aceable

Preventing her opponent from serving on ace, Senior Lisa Ross returns the serve with a forehand. Ross and her partner, Lesniak, moved their way up to No. 1 doubles last season.



Surfing the Net

Returning a volley, Senior Ariel Dennie plays the net for shallow returns. Dennie showed vast improvement by moving from a JV singles player to a varsity doubles player.



What's Up, Doc?

Confering with Volunteer Coach "Doc" Levinson before the next set, Senior Ariel Dennie and Sophomore Pauline Katsouras set up a game plan. Dennie and Katsouras competed at the number two doubles position this season.



Rally to Win

Returning the ball with a backhand, Freshman Katelyn Pruitt displays her aggression. Pruitt competed in the Na 2 singles position for the Pirates this season.

Charging the Net

End to a Five Year Reign

After finishing 4th in the state last season, the Merrillville girls' Tennis Team faced a rebuilding year. With the loss of their No. 1 doubles and Na. 2 and 3 singles players, they looked to underclassmen to fill the holes. Two freshmen started at the No. 2 and 3 singles positions, along with a new doubles team. However, the team was unable to defend their sectional crown against Andrean. "It was sad to lose sectionals. We beat them in the regular season so we thought we could beat them in sectionals," Senior Lisa Ross said. Merrillville started off the season with seven straight wins before hitting a roadblock. They lost to one of the area's best teams, Lake Central, and fell to DAC foe, Chesterton. One bright spot for the Pirates was that the No. 1 doubles team of Julie Lesniak and Lisa Ross was named to the North-South All-Star Team and Casady Pruitt advanced to the state meet. While Pruitt did lose in the first round, the trip helped her gain experience for next year. Pruitt lost 6-0, 6-0 to the eventual state champion. "It was a good experience, I just hope next year I can go to state with the whole team," said Pruitt.

Taking a Step Up

After losing four players from last year's final four team, Merrillville needed some younger players to step up. Accepting the challenge were Freshmen Katelyn Pruitt and Katie Coleman and Sophomore Pauline Katsouras. "It was a hard transition, but I felt honored to play varsity this year," said Coleman. Pruitt felt no pressure as a freshman. "Coach Zimmerman told us there wasn't a lot of pressure since we were only freshmen," said Pruitt. Katsouras is looking forward to next year and hopes to find a doubles partner to replace Senior Ariel Dennie. "I am going to miss Ariel a lot. We played well together and I had fun with her. I only hope I can find a partner as good as her," said Katsouras. "I'm looking forward to next year and hopefully we can get back our sectional crown."

Team Scores

Highland	W 3-2
Lowell	W 3-2
Griffith	W 5-0
Andrean	W 3-2
Valparaiso	W 3-2
Portage	W 5-0
MHS Invite	5th Place
Lake Central	L 3-2
Chesterton	L 3-2
Habit	W 5-0
Jasper Tourney	6th Place
Crown Point	W 3-2
Michigan City	L 3-2
LaPorte	W 3-2
Roosevelt (SI)	W 5-0
Andrean (SI)	L 3-2

DAC Record	5-2
Season Record	10-4

Team Honors

MVP
Casady Pruitt

Most Improved
Julie Lesniak

Sportsmanship
Lisa Ross

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by Dave Uremovich

Captions
by Kim Shapley

Layout
by Adam Milicevic



Aiming For Par

Team Scores

Marquette Invite	10th
Boone Grove	L 165-181
Michigan City	W 165-166
Portage	W 165-166
K.V. Invite	12th
LaPorte	W 164-170
Hobart	W 169-188
Chesterton	L 155-169
Rensselaer Invite	13th
Boone Grove Invite	3rd
Crown Point	L 170-171
Valparaiso	L 170-171
Hobart	W 179-200
Chesterton	L 164-179
Michigan City	L 165-174
LaPorte	L 160-174
Portage	L 154-171
Valparaiso	L 160-174
Crown Point	L 168-174
Chesterton Invite	7th
Sectionals	5th

DAC Record	6-8
Season Record	6-11

JV Record	1-7
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Team Survives Tail-Spin Season

The boys' Golf Team started the season on a rampaging winning their first three Duneland Athletic Conference matches. Then the team went on a tail-spin by winning two of the next nine conference matches, along with a loss to rival Andean. The season was full of close matches. They lost matches to Valparaiso and Crown Point, each by one stroke. The team placed fifth at sectionals behind Crown Point, Boone Grove, Andean and Lowell. One player advanced to regionals, Senior Matt Aloia. "Matt had a good year. He made All-Conference, and advanced to regionals individually," said Coach Joe Starkey. The team consisted of 14 golfers competing for 5 varsity spots. "The future," Coach Starkey said, "looks promising because the team will only lose one senior, Aloia."

Aloia Named All-Conference

Merrillville's lone senior, Matt Aloia, had confidence in securing the No. 1 position. Aloia was the first Merrillville golfer to be named to the All-Conference team in five years. "I was not sure that I was going to make All-Conference because the scores were close," said Aloia. Aloia then advanced to regionals individually after shooting an 83 at sectionals. "I was not pleased with my score at sectionals because I was playing well all week. I thought I should have shot anywhere from 76-79," said Aloia. "I think it will take a 75 or better to make it to state." Aloia shot a 90 at regionals which was not good enough to advance.

Mix in Lineup

The competition was on from the start with eight golfers vying for five spots on varsity. With Matt Aloia, Ryan Zurek and Chris Trapane set in as the No. 1, 2 and 3 golfers, the other two spots were up for grabs. Juniors Tony Stofko and Igor Risteviski, and Sophomores Shawn O'Keefe, Raleigh Ensen, and David Uremovich battled for the last two spots. By the end of the season, Ensen had solidified himself in the varsity roster, and less than a stroke separated Stofko, O'Keefe and Uremovich. With only one senior leaving, each of these golfers will be battling it out again next spring.

Team Huddle

Discussing their scores for the day, Sophomore Raleigh Ensen and Junior Chris Trapane wait for their teammates to finish their rounds. Ensen and Trapane were key members of the varsity team.



Caught in the Bunker

Being stuck in the bunker is a problem for anyone but Junior Tony Stofko. Stofko, who advanced to regionals individually last year, helped lead the Pirates to victory this year.

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by Allen Babowski

Captions
by David Uremovich

Layout
by David Uremovich



I Am No. 1

Reacting to his missed putt, Senior Matt Aloia looks in disgust at the ball. Aloia was the No. 1 golfer for Merrillville, and advanced individually to Regionals

No Pressure

Standing on the first tee can make some golfers choke under pressure, but not Sophomore Raleigh Enslin. Enslin watches the ball travel down the fairway. Enslin was a key golfer for the Pirates and was named the Most Improved Golfer on the team



Falling into the Hole

Following through on his putt, Junior Chris Tropane watches the ball fall into the hole. Tropane was a returning varsity starter from last year's team.

Holding His Own

Watching the ball travel off the tee, Junior Ryan Zurek holds his follow through. Zurek, the No. 2 golfer on the team, battled with Matt Aloia for the No. 1 spot

Under the Obstacle

Responding to the challenge, Freshman Megan Stacks slides under the tag and safely into third. Willing to get down and dirty helped the Pirates in defeating Kankakee Valley 11-0 in the first round of sectionals



Big Mouth

Catching for the Pirates, Sophomore Kris Paskash needed a loud voice that could be heard in the outfield. Paskash had to direct the team in making the necessary plays.



Smooth Pickup

Snatching the ball in the infield, Sophomore Heidi Hammond throws Kankakee Valley's batter out at first base. Hammond was the starting shortstop for the team this season.

Waiting Patiently

Preparing to swing, Senior Julie Seagraves waits for the right pitch. Seagraves was a key lead-off hitter this season with 19 hits and 4 stolen bases



Strike Three

Firing it at the catcher's mitt, Senior Heather Hush delivers her fastball to the batter. Hush struck out 104 batters throughout the season and walked 36.



Another Sammy Sosa?

With a batting average of .476, Senior Erin Wolfe certainly knows how to swing the bat. Wolfe was named one of the best players in the area and will play on an all-star team this summer.

Hey Batter, Batter

Getting Back Into It

The Softball Team worked together this season, and showed many improvements by reaching several goals. Assistant Varsity Coach Andy Niksich said, "The team morale has been awesome!" Any team has to work well together to achieve success. Coach Bob Bergeson said, "We messed around with the line-up a little to find one that really clicked." After 17 years of coaching, Coach Bergeson knew that he wanted to improve the team's defense. The stats can confirm that this goal was reached. Coach Bergeson said, "We dropped about 30 errors this season."

Coming to an End

After years of playing together, developing friendships and learning each other's talents, the five seniors concluded their high school careers. "It's sad that after playing with these girls for so long, it's all over and we are all going our separate ways," said Senior Heather Hush. Seniors Janice Hallenbeck, Hush, Missy Russell, Julie Seagraves and Erin Wolfe motivated the team to improve. Seagraves said, "The seniors pick up the team when they are down and see to it that everyone is doing what they are supposed to." Many of these girls have become great friends and learned to play together as a team," said Coach Niksich.

Sisterly Love

Two pairs of sisters competed on the varsity team. Heather Hush and her younger sister, Freshman Brittany Hush, and Sophomore Kristine Paskash along with Freshman Michelle Paskash, teamed up on the field. The Hushs and the Paskashs made up the No. 1 and No. 2 pitching and catching positions. Michelle said, "I really love playing with my sister. She helps me out a lot. I get a little pressure sometimes when I go out there to pitch, but Kris supports me 100 percent. I start to settle down and things go great." Michelle was the No. 2 varsity pitcher this season. Kristine said, "We work together and get along better." Brittany also likes playing with her sister because "she helps me out a lot, especially when my confidence level is down." Heather said, "Even though we argue, we don't let it interfere with our playing. I know I can always depend on her."

Team Scores

Penn	L 2:1
Brandywine	L 2:0
Lafayette Jefferson	L 4:1
Hobart	L 2:1
Boone Grove	W 5:0
Crown Point	L 2:1
Chesterton	L 10:0
Valparaiso	L 3:1
LaPorte	W 2:1
Bishop Noll	L 5:1
Portage	L 6:3
Michigan City	W 21:5
Thornwood	L 10:0
Hobart	L 3:0
Lake Central	L 15:0
Crown Point	L 10:3
Chesterton	L 5:4
Wheeler	W 4:0
Frontier	L 4:0
Twin Lakes	L 10:0
Lawell	L 10:3
Valparaiso	L 6:0
Munster	L 7:6
LaPorte	L 2:1
Lafayette Harrison	L 10:6
Portage	L 1:0
Griffith	W 2:0
Michigan City	W 10:0
Kankakee Valley (SI)	W 11:0
Lawell (SI)	W 7:1
Portage (SI)	L 6:1

DAC Record	3-11
Season Record	8-23

JV Record	6-19
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Team Honors

MVP
Heather Hush

Most Improved
Julie Seagraves

Sportsmanship
Melissa Russell

Capy
by Kate Santeramo

Captains
by Lauren Stram

Loyalt
by David Uremovich





JV and Varsity Football

Head Coach: Jeff Yelton

First Row: Breon Harris, Tommy Vachey, Jason Giordano, Philip Komisarick, Edward Contreras, Joe Clark, Jared Dawson, Robert Toth, Brad Woodward, David Trajkovski and David Frank; Second Row: Marlon Hanley, Trent Harris, Randolph Dillon, Claude Powers, Jonathan Budz, Thomas Sovich, Temidayo McCarthy, Aaron Powell, Nick Fisher, Riley Larimore, Derek Wampler, Jeff Meding and Doug Kurczynski; Third Row: Rosalinda Sanchez, Lindsey Richards, Jenny Sivka, Trainer Kim Simpson, Coach Joe Atria, Coach Steve Nichols, Coach Tony Bartolomeo, Coach Denis Hamilton, Coach Jeff Yelton, Coach Larry Zembala, Coach Zac Wells, Coach Bill Roberts, Coach Wilbur Milhouse, Trainer Sean Hudson, Laura Lackey, Jenna Hill, Michelle Mathewson and Maya Rothstein; Fourth Row: Heather Casady, Nick Dallas, Nickolas Roberts, James Harris, Joe Frasca, Sean Simpson, Nicholas Kazonis, Bart Woodward, John Johnson, Noyan Olcum, Joseph Thomas, Donnie Hopson, Zerubbabel Lewis, Michael Berta and Mandy Simpson; Fifth Row: Ryan Romeo, Gary Marek, Sylvester Brooks, Marcus Jones, Brandon Mosley, Eric Morris, Adam Tegelman, Jerry Williams, Jamarr Henderson, Robert Nava, Paul Kurczynski, Steven Gill, John Mosley and Danielle Molchan; Sixth Row: Billy Jones, Gerald Mosley, Mike Bunnell, Kevin Dwyer, David Wright, Jason Williams, Daniel Inhtsane, Chad Snyder, Gary Clark, Jarret Darling, Justin Previs, Nick Pajan and Randy Aleman; Seventh Row: Chris Sullivan, Tim Gust, Brian Yack, Jh'Rome Tuggle, Jeff Abrego, Jake Appleton, David Spalinas, Michael Francis, Dave Rooda, Rob Hush, Joe Mustafa and Justin Stanley



Freshman Football

Head Coach: Luis Lopez

First Row: Timothy Bugno, Casey Czekala, Milorad Trikuja, Anthony Johnson, Daniele Baldassari, Jason Mitchell, Adrian Jones, Brian Kizka, Jeremy Lee and Lazarus Allison; Second Row: Shoun Freeman, Douglas Kurczynski, Antoine Brown, Andrew Pritt, Kevin Marsh, Timothy Bugno, Justin Wilderness, Sean Hawny, Bart Woodward, Brandon Fisher, Alex Gates and Dante Mason; Third Row: Andrew Binder, David Plascencia, Keir Walker, Dale Lee, Coach Mike Hammacher, Coach Luis Lopez, Coach Jeff Clinkenbeard, Jason Smith, Brandon Loudermilk and Joseph Frank; Fourth Row: Vergil Savage, Nathanael Powell, James Reitz, Brett Relphorde, Joseph Purevich, Kevin Perkins and Michael Nason





Varsity Volleyball

Head Coach: Tania Price

First Row: Amy Wedding, Monique Navarro, Christine Aloia, Tianna Coleman, Heidi Hammond and Elizabeth Gallinatti; Second Row: Coach Amy Govert, Coach Jane Warren, Kim Shapley, Coach Tania Price, Carol Newell, Coach Mark Ciesielski and Coach Lari Dutz; Third Row: Janice Hallenbeck and Anelda Aporite; Fourth Row: Maegan McPhee; not pictured: Lisa Newell



JV Volleyball

Head Coach: Amy Govert

First Row: Megan Lacny, Monique Navarro, Elaine Gemelas, Megan Stacks, Kelly Williams, Amy Wedding and Gina Angotti; Second Row: Coach Amy Govert, Coach Jane Warren, Diana Prentoski, Brittany Hush, Vertina Savage, Coach Mark Ciesielski and Coach Tania Price



Freshman Volleyball

Head Coach: Jane Warren

First Row: Melissa Borom, Gina Angotti, Meghan Schafer, Stephanie Fisher, Felicitia Graves, Brandi White and Ann Marie Monteen; Second Row: Coach Jane Warren, Marissa Comanse, Kenyetta West, Anesia Brown, Marissa Bankston, Farah Arshami and Coach Tania Price



Boys' Varsity Soccer

Head Coach: Brian Past

First Row: Luke Nienhaus, Matthew Aloia, Vangel Nacovski, Peter Brasovan, Pere Darsuleski, Nicholas Mileos and Christopher Gabriel; Second Row: Zachary Pearman, Jonathan Gutierrez, Ciro Ramos, Craig Ols, Brian Zdych, Eric Nolan, Matthew Jagielski and Ken Dettlerline; Third Row: Amanda Cast, Coach James Johnston, Jayson Villars, Jared Byczko, Joseph Jurisa, Coach Brian Past, Igor Risteviski, Martin Cole, Jason Kendera, Coach Rick Hurey and Jessica Gonzalez



Boys' JV Soccer

Head Coach: Rick Hurey

First Row: Quinton Lewis, Ben Graves, Dan Sierra, Joshua Watkins, James Mysliwiec and Scott Saberniak; Second Row: Sahson Karimi, Vincent Cole, Kwame Asabere, John Vazanellis, Brian Nienhaus, Bradley Daniel, William Urban, Daniel Padberg and Jeffrey Stelzer; Third Row: Amanda Cast, Coach Rick Hurey, Matthew Krysa, Robert Wahlman, Bajan Javanovic, Coach Brian Past, Josh Diaz, Brian Cruz, David Morrow, Coach James Johnston and Jessica Gonzalez

Girls' Varsity Soccer

Head Coach: Tammy Deel

First Row: Julie Seagraves, Kim Jansen, Laura Sapka, Deanna Rivera and Jennifer Jansen; Second Row: Meredith Sperling, Amanda Panning, Annie Stupic, Meghan Mauman, Margaret Szczerba, Mandy Medelin and Brittany Williams; Third Row: Coach Rich Deel, Kim Sneiderwine, Shay Kuzma, Marissa Vawter, Julie Collins, Megan Diaz and Coach Tammy Deel



Girls' JV Soccer

Head Coach: Andrea Simpson

First Row: Deanna Rivera, Megan Diaz, Jacquelyn Gurney, Mallory Homola and Ashley Krumrie; Second Row: Gillan Alvear, Becky Kohler, Bianca Mizimakasi and Jeannelle Morena; Third Row: Jacqueline Lipski, Kelly Swickard, Coach Andrea Simpson, Ronda Fruehling and Kristina Milcevic



Boys' Varsity Cross Country

Head Coach: Mike Hoffman

First Row: Scott Santell, Joshua Maya, Cliff Cook, Ryan Allender, Jeremy Adamson and Brett Skorupa; Second Row: Marc Maple, Sergio Nava-McCain, Coach Mike Hoffman, Steven Stackert and Ricardo Hernandez



Girls' Varsity Cross Country

Head Coach: Bobi Cunningham

First Row: Allison Dyer, Kathleen Wilson, Pauline Petrich and Nicole LaGala; Second Row: Sarra Kwell, Natalie Weall, Coach Bobi Cunningham, Jamie Sweeney and Christine Leus



Boys' Varsity Tennis

Head Coach: Dave Zimmerman

First Row: Staten Stafka, Tony Stafka, Sahal Azeem, Jared Perkins, Daniel Burkus and Josh Poazy; Second Row: Pauline Katsouras, Cole Perkins, Randall Johnson, Joshua Donahue, Joshua Diehl, Christopher Nahlik, Donal Marler and Casady Pruitt; Third Row: Drake Branda, Coach Ferrer Levinson, Dathan Echols, Leandro Lucato, Gregory Nlksch, Coach Dave Zimmerman, David Uremovich, Greg Branda, Paulo Laarden, Coach Alan Branda and Lisa Ross





Girls' Varsity Golf

Head Coach: Joe Starkey

First Row: Megan Frasca, Sarah Street, Jacqueline Barsich, Jennifer Coates, Krysta Baran and Katie Coleman; Second Row: Coach Joe Starkey, Katie Spallaras, Julie Fabian, Jeanette Fabian and Coach Patrick Mulloy



Purple Varsity Cheerleading

Head Coach: Lori Gavert

First Row: Katie Floyd and Diana Hughes; Second Row: Mark Roberts, Theresa Sciacotta, Edward Sablan, Jennifer Sierra, Kelly Palster, Vincent Cole, Brittany Cobb and Antonio Sablan; Third Row: Melissa Vargas, Joey Jordan, Theresa Schubert, Ron Pedraza, Rachel Hammond, Mark Wieneke and Christine Aloia



White Varsity Cheerleading

Head Coach: Erica Walla

First Row: Jodi Suggs, Tara Schaab and Mary Kate Lucas; Second Row: Heidi Hammond, Nicole Stompar and Ashley Dallas; Third Row: Beth Caton, Jill Porter and Rebecca Longacre



Freshman Cheerleading

Head Coach: Angela Mish

First Row: Myiesha Mable, Heather Natywa and Kristy Polster; Second Row: Katherine Coleman, Tricia Lakotos; Third Row: Katherine Spallaras, Kristen Neese and Kristi Pawlowski



Varsity Dance Team

Head Coach: Jodi Zawandi

First Row: Dominique Henry, Fontaine Stegall, Carey Ruckman, Elena Gonzales, Trevy Ramos and Kristina Fleck; Second Row: Tamara Bowen, Theresa Nixon, Tara Murphy, Ronisha Pratt and Ginger Francis; Third Row: Jessica Wieneke, Felicia Parks, Sarah Stackert and Caitlin Floyd



JV Dance Team

Head Coach: Katrina Russin

First Row: Tara Johnson, Stephanie Bishop, Erica Fizer, Jessica Daniels, Joann Flares, Brittany Hamlin and Ashley Hinchen. Second Row: Katelyn Pruitt, Dyan Dorang, Ashly Janovick, Nicole Steriavski, Jalynn Vargas and Jenny Mustafa. Third Row: Melanie Maple, Danielle Nikrin, Ashley Gidley, Missy Paniaguas and Jaymini Dave



Boys' Varsity Basketball

Head Coach: Jim East

First Row: Joshua Kaselka, Demetrius Henley, David Degard, Vangel Skaski and Jeffrey St. Martin. Second Row: Vincent Cole, Christine Alaia, Brittany Cobb, Kelly Palster, Jennifer Sierra, Katie Floyd, Diana Hughes and Edward Sablan. Third Row: Antania Sablan, Mark Wienske, Rachel Hammond, James Harris, Theresa Shubert and Mark Roberts. Fourth Row: Igor Risteviski, Lovell Cook, Darrin Weaver, Allen Babawsky and Ronald Pedraza. Fifth Row: Coach Craig Adelsperger, David Coughlin, Geoff Lalic, Coach Jim East, Justin Johnson, Wesley Doty and Trainer Sean Hudson



Boys' JV Basketball

Head Coach: Lea Bonin

First Row: Carl Hurd, Dennis Howell, Brandon Masley and Derrick Jones. Second Row: Carey Hawkins, Steven Marcus, Keith Murphy, David Marrow, Jay Gaberand and Skyler Smith. Third Row: Jeffrey St. Martin, Eric Severson, Coach Lea Bonin, Bojan Javanovic and Joshua Kaselka



Boys' Freshman Basketball

Head Coach: Jim Vermillion

First Row: Daryl Arthur, Anthony Dennis, Steven Lares, Darren Anderson, Tristan Dawson, Marques Smith and Joshua Maya. Second Row: Ca'Darryl West, Brandon Lauderdale, Curtis Wyatt, Sean Kinsey, Aaron Marcus and Antoine Brawn. Third Row: Coach Jim Vermillion, Virgil Savage, Brett Relpharde, Jonathan Reynolds, Michael Neal, James Reitz, Michael Andrews, Kevin Perkins and Coach Dave Herbert



Varsity Wrestling

Head Coach: Randy Qualizza

First Row: Andrew Binder, Michael Rodriguez, David Frank, Michelle Rodriguez, Felicia Graves, Kimberly Verdusco, Shawn Rice, Breon Harris, Gary Nelson. Second Row: Philip Patterson, Clint Winmer, Thomas Vechey, Douglas Kurczinski, Joseph Thomas, Christopher Gabriel, David Jutkus. Third Row: Cory Olivares, Paul Kurczinski, Joseph Jordan, Robert Wahlman, Martin Cole, Noyam Olcum. Fourth Row: Coach Kevin Jolas, Joseph Szczurba, Jeffery Abrega, Coach Randy Qualizza, Trent Harris, Nathanael Powell, Coach Ron Pitaka





Girls' Varsity Gymnastics

Head Coach: Diane Roberts

First Row: Katie Tavis and Lindsey Sharp; Second Row: Jacqueline Hartford, and Nicole Spargar; Third Row: Mykeshia Mable, Jenna Hill, Melissa Vargas, Julie Collins and Kara Lux; Forth Row: Coach Diane Roberts and Coach Bill Roberts



Boys' Varsity Swimming

Head Coach: Bryan Angerman

First Row: Matt Hays, Ricarda Hernandez, Jash Harvath, Nick Sribnaski, Paula Loarden and Tony Staffka; Second Row: Tammy Silvka, Josh Diaz, Tim Randolph, Carl Kartun, Chris Adams, Ray Wilbanks and Mike Wadley; Third Row: Jose Benavente, Aron Okichich, Alex Buck, David Rooda, Tim Balika, Joe Plukas, Adam Stetsan and Ben Warman



Girls' Varsity Swimming

Head Coach: Bryan Angerman

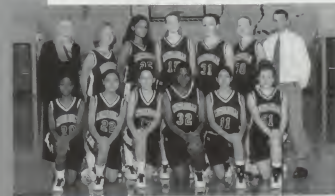
First Row: Heather Casady, Nicole Olivares, Ashley Robinson and Christy Leus; Second Row: Megan Diaz, Jeanelle Marena, Cynthia Gonzalez, Melissa Wadley, Julie Montemayor, Amanda Cast and Megan Brake; Third Row: Ronda Fruenling, Becky Stephen, Emily Peters, Danielle Malchan, Cathryn Stupic, Julie Trimble, Lisa Ross and Jenny Sivka; Fourth Row: Brittany Statka, Jenny Mustafa, Vera Trikulis, Elise Szony, Ashley Jones, Erika Larson, Erin Holland and Emily Mandich



Girls' Varsity Basketball

Head Coach: Joe Pateet

First Row: Brittany Uersery, Heather Renehan, Ebony Pape, Melissa Sanchez, Tiana Coleman and Julie Seagraves; Second Row: Coach Amy Gavert, Coach Mike Hamacher, Karen Davis, Kim Shapley, Marshay Jolly, Coach Joe Pateet and Coach Amy Niksch



Girls' JV Basketball

Head Coach: Mike Hamacher

First Row: Melissa Boram, Jasmine Dayon, Lindsey Richards, Brittiney Blue, Rosalinda Sanchez and Ashley Berger; Second Row: Coach Jan Niksch, Jacqueline Barsich, Virtina Savage, Brittany Hush, Diana Prentaski, Natalie Weall and Coach Mike Hamacher



Girls' Freshman Basketball

Head Coach: Ron Kurth

First Row: Chaquilla Tucker, Teneka Kindred, Shenell Haynes, Natassia Williams, Jocelyn Russell and Gina Angatti; Second Row: Coach Jenny Watson, Tienieka Kindred, Ashley Green, Stephanie Neville, Nicole Shudick and Ineke Mc Millan



Boys' Varsity Track

Head Coach: Jim Johnston

First Row: Ashley Dallas, Luke Nerhouse, Brett Skorupa, Arnie Valdez, Vince Cole, Sahson Karimi, Ben Graves, Andrew Caraura, Scott Santelk, Jessica Gonzalez; Second Row: Antonio Sablan, Ed Sablan, Jake Minnick, Will Urban, Michael Hill, Ed Contreras, Ryan Allender, Chris Tokarski, Matt Jagiela, Andrew Bender, Jonathan Palak, Jason Pierce; Third Row: Brian Nienhou, Eric Nolan, Matt Crane, Joe Clark, Clifford James, Brian Zydch, Patrick McGee, Tristan Dawson, Christopher Bishop, Sean Simpson, Cliff Cook, Kendell Thomas; Fourth Row: Coach Brian Past, Ryan Nava, Noyan Olcum, Jon Gutierrez, Jerry Williams, Dellroy Riley, Anthony Johnson, Michael Booker, Jeremy Adamson, Martin Cole, Christopher Williams, Cira Ramos, Joey Frasca, Coach Tony Barilameo, Coach Luis Lopez; Fifth Row: Coach Jim Johnston, Brian Cruz, Antoine Brown, Brandon Mosely, Mark Weneke, David Morrow, Matt Krysa, Jarret Darling, Gary Clark, Mark Roberts, Tim Bungo, Jared Byczka, Aaron Marcus, Peter Brasovan, Curtis Wyatt, Coach Mike Hoffman; Sixth Row: Ricardo Hernandez, Brandon McVade, Earl McClain, Gabe Ziegler, Randolph Dillon, Jeff Meding, Marc Maple, Sayed AbdulHafiz, Jerome Tuggle, Kieth Murphy, Joey Jordan, Claude Powers, Joe Juris; Seventh Row: Joe Purevich, Marlan Hanley, Steve Stackert, Aaron Powell, David Neville, Trent Harris, Tom Savich, Carl Kortum, Nate Powell, Andre Toney, Nick Fisher, Jake Appleton, Daren Cudjoe, Joe Mustafa, Justin Moore



Girls' Varsity Track

Head Coach: Joe Atria

First Row: Christine Leus, Dana Bolden, Rasalinda Sanchez, Taeshia Allford, Sarra Kwell; Second Row: Rachel Thomas, Alyssia Brown, Meredith Sperling, Nicole Stompor, Nilaja Neely, Nikisha Jefferson, Carmen Pickett, Ariel O'Neil; Third Row: Coach Jeff Clinkenbeard, Candice Woods, Camella Pickett, Suretha Hill, Pauline Petrich, Kenita Garner, Gloria Peay, Sheryl Kwell, Nikia Tanna, Kaneshia Jennings, Coach Joe Atria; Fourth Row: Coach Bobi Cunningham, April Samuels, Kelly Halarz, Lanika Lewis, Melanie Maple, Ann Stupic, Hatood Dave, Sherrie Haynes, Lindsey Salomon, Megan Lacney, Coach Phil Hey; Fifth Row: Kathleen Wilson, Lamonica Parker, Jamie Sweeney, Kenyetta West, Stephanie Neville, Anelda Aponte, Diana Prentoski, Virlina Savage, Elania Gemelas, Allison Dyer, Alysia Farney



Varsity Baseball

Head Coach: Zac Wells

First Row: Chris Gabriel, Jason Giordano, Dan Kwiatkowski, Nick Roberts, Derek Roldan; Second Row: Coach Bill Roberts, Eric Morrane, Paul Kurczynski, Eric Morris, Steve Gill, Brenton Robinson, Coach John Kwiatkowski; Third Row: Craig Ols, Chad Snyder, Jason Plys, Coach Zac Wells, Justin Curtis, Vince Torres, Ryan Romeo



JV Baseball

Head Coach: Brad Schulte

Front Row: Scott Saberniak, Thomas Vechey, Dragon Trajkovski, Kevin Saberniak; Second Row: Jared Dawson, Eric Nelson, Paul Kurczynski, Douglas Kurczynski; Third Row: Jay Guber, Jerred Yagelski, Coach Brad Schulte, Joshua Curtis, Justin Previs





Freshman Baseball

Head Coach: Randy Horka

First Row: Christopher Hara, Matthew Paul, Zack Sowash, Casey Czekala, Joseph Frank; Second Row: Daniel Burkus, Brendan Schafer, Bart Woodward, Michael Marlar, David Jutkus; Third Row: Coach Ryan Miller, Kevin Marsh, Ryan Donohue, Coach Randy Horka, James Reitz, Kyle Loudermilk, Coach Rich Plys



Girls' Varsity Tennis

Head Coach: Dave Zimmerman

First Row: Jasmine Dayton, Julie Lesniak, Lagina Williams, Kristina Milcevic, Laura Vaughn, Markeyia Martin, Ariel Dennie; Second Row: Joshua Diehl, Casady Pruitt, Dyan Darang, Molly Burt, Jaymini Dave, Lisa Ross, Katelyn Pruitt, Katherine Coleman, Randall Johnson; Third Row: Cole Perkins, Coach Dave Zimmerman, Kiyanna Harris, Anessa Brown, Emily Peters, Priyanka Arshanapalli, Pauline Katsouras, Coach Larry Swanson, Coach Ferrer Levinson



Boys' Varsity Golf

Head Coach: Joe Starkey

First Row: Daran Knox, Steve Burke, Kristopher Simonovski, Matt Kasperan; Second Row: Matt Aloia, Eric Konefall, Neil Marek, Ryan Zurek; Third Row: Raleigh Enslin, Chris Trapane, Shawn O'Keefe, Coach Joe Starkey, David Uremovich, Igor Risteviski, Tony Stafka



Varsity Softball

Head Coach: Bob Bergeson

First Row: Kristine Paskash, Lindsey Richards, Heidi Hammond, Monique Navarro, Erin Ely, Julie Seagraves; Second Row: Jenna Hill, Desiree McDaniel, Erin Wolfe, Tiffany Smith, Janice Hallenback, Michelle Paskash, Heather Hush; Third Row: Amanda Simpson, Coach Andy Nilsch, Megan Stacks, Brittany Hush, Coach Bob Bergeson, Jennifer Mason, Melissa Russell, Coach Jim Lucas



JV Softball

Head Coach: Amy Gavert

First Row: Felicia Graves, Eleni Anton, Megan Frasca, Ann Marie Monteen; Second Row: Jenna Hill, Jennifer Highsmith, Lauren Stram, Meghan Schafer, Samantha Sullivan; Third Row: Coach Amy Gavert, Gina Angotti, Ebony Pope, Megan Stacks, Coach Jim Lucas



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



1. Striking a pose, Senior Derek Wampler takes time out to take a picture. 2. Taking a break during passing period, Seniors Kevin Lewis and Lauren Hamala stop to chat before class starts. 3. Being a thespian at heart, Moya Rathstein places stage make-up on during her advanced Dramatics class. 4. Laughing it up at lunch Seniors Ray Wilbanks and Lisa Ross enjoy each other's company. 5. Showing off their school spirit Seniors Brittany Grimmer and Emilee Ashley are only a few of the many students that participate in spirit point days. 6. Taking a look at the job placement board outside the Guidance Department, Senior Rob Banks is one of the many students who stop to look at what jobs are available. 7. Rocking out at the annual Revue, Seniors Reggie Holt, Josh Stevens, and Marc Spurlock help make the band Skin Deep complete.



So with arms stretched forth, eyes closed and mind reeling. Your future is here . . . are you ready to go?~ Powerman 5000

It's taken us 12 years to arrive at where we are now. Here we are, standing on the edge of high school, working up our courage to take that jump into the unknown. Scared to let go of the past and determined to stay where we are and not to venture into the cloudy future. Some of us know where we'll land, while others have an idea but are scared to let go and jump.

We've taken the same jump, the same flying leap from elementary to middle school and then again from middle to high school. Now this is the big one. Some of us are heading out, away from the place where we hang our hats, while others have decided to stick it out at home. Everyone is jumping toward different directions, leaving their finished puzzles of school behind and starting a new one far from the comforts and familiarities of home.

Twelve years have been spent seeing the same people almost everyday, developing friendships, making enemies and saying good-bye. As all of us stand looking over the edge of our next big jump. Swallow the fear lodged in our throats, grab the hand of the person standing next to you and have fun falling.

LOOKING TOWARD OUR FUTURE.
PEERING OVER THE EDGE.
WORK UP THE COURAGE. AND JUMP.



A DAY FOR THE SENIORS



Warming up their vocal cords, Seniors Nilaja Neely and Dathan Echols showed the class just what the "Most Musical" seniors were capable of by singing a duet together.

Dressed to impress, the Senior Class entered the high school for a day of food, fun and reminiscing with the people they've gone to school with for four years. Seniors filed into the cafeteria, receiving their senior magazines and finding seats with friends. The day began with the seniors snapping pictures, reading their wills, catching up with friends and waiting in line for breakfast.

As students finished their breakfasts, it was time for the Senior Choice Awards. Applause rang out as Mr. John Lamberse announced each winner. Honoring the seniors with an impromptu dance, Senior Dancin' Dave Perry let loose one last time. Winners of the award for "Most Musical," Seniors Dathan Echols and Nilaja Neely, showed off their skills by singing. As Mr. Lamberse handed out the last award, students settled down to watch part of the Senior Video. Though the seniors only watched part of it, due to lack of time, the video spans 90 minutes with footage from Senior Breakfast and Drive-Around interviews and memories from the year.

To close out the day, seniors participated in the Senior Drive-Around, where they drove around the school screaming, honking horns, waving at the cameras and giving their last 'hooray' to Merrillville High. Some students decorated cars and flew flags. Some even rented a limo, but Seniors Chris Gabriel, Steve Gill and Jason Giordano stole the show when they rode their bikes up and down the line of cars. "We didn't want to wait forever in the line of cars, so we decided to ride our bikes and have some fun in our last days as seniors," said Gabriel.

Anticipated senior moments have finally come to pass. Senior Breakfast, Drive-Around and Senior Trip have all come and gone in the blink of an eye. Events four years in the making are over. Seniors have had their claim to fame. Graduation is the end of one chapter, but also the beginning of another.



Making the Senior Drive-Around more interesting, Seniors Jason Giordano, Chris Gabriel and Stephen Gill decided to ride their bicycles through the lines instead of driving their cars. Seniors tried extra hard to make this day memorable.



SENIORS ENJOY ONE OF THEIR LAST DAYS IN SCHOOL RECEIVING THEIR SENIOR CHOICE AWARDS AND HAVING BREAKFAST WITH THEIR FRIENDS.

Finding out what was left to her, Senior April Ramirez glances through the senior magazine as she waits in line to get her breakfast. Senior wills were memories that seniors left friends.



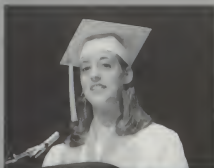
Dressed to a ten, Senior Josh Berk wore his "Sunday best" as he shot water at passing cars. Seniors added a touch of fun to the Drive-Around with shaving cream, water guns, flags and bikes.

Waving "bye" to the camera, Seniors Ryon Morlow, Mitch Lynn and Adam Milicevic couldn't wait any longer to get out of school for the day. Some seniors spent the day with friends while others went home and returned to bed.

As some seniors drove around in their cars or rode on their bikes, these happy seniors made a statement as they pulled away in a limo filled with friends. Seniors Melissa Vargas, Danielle Molchan, Jenny Jansen, Kristina Coburn, Julie Seagroves and Katie Floyd decorated their limo with purple streamers to show their Pirate pride.



Speaking of the importance of friendship and memories, Valedictorian Marissa Vawter brought tears to many students' eyes in her speech.



Listening to all the speakers, Tony Allison, Matt Aloia and Nicole Altan give their undivided attention to the messages the speakers hope to get across to the students.



"We are the flame. Our future is the wick. We need to bring them together to succeed." Valedictorian Haatal Dave tells her classmates.



EMOTIONS RUN HIGH AT GRADUATION

Like many seniors, Josh Berk laughs and cheers on Mr. John Lamberie during his speech to the 2002 graduates. Many seniors become close to Mr. Lamberie through the four years of high school.



As members of the Class of 2002 file into the seats, Maegan McPhee, Tamara Bawen, Chris Kors, Marissa Vawter, Lisa Ross, Julie Lesnick, Mirko Ivanovic, Haatal Dave, Dr. Tony Lux, Dr. Mark Sperling, and Mr. John Lamberie look on.



SAYING GOOD-BYE

Sitting in a sea of purple and white, seniors waited patiently to receive their diploma covers. The Class of 2002 was finally graduating from high school. Some couldn't believe it, while others thought it was all too late in coming. Emotions ran high as seniors realized it was the end of one road and the beginning of another.

Valedictorians focused their speeches on friendships and the future. While some students daydreamed or talked through some of the speeches, every student awakened when the main speaker, Mr. John Lamberie, rose to speak. Using his theatrical nature and memories from freshman year, Mr. Lamberie related to the students sitting in the audience by commenting about how he felt at his graduation. Making jokes and recalling major achievements throughout senior year, Mr. Lamberie strived to get one thing across in his speech: "Do your best in everything you're told to do and in what you want to do. Just do your best."

Finally, it was time to walk across the stage and receive diplomas. Cheers, air horns and whistles erupted from the crowd of parents and guests as graduates walked across the stage. Yet the night was not complete. Dr. Mark Sperling had one more job to fulfill for the Class of 2002. He had to announce the turning of the tassels. As the tassels were turned, the balloons dropped, tears shed and friends rejoiced. It was the end of high school for the Class of 2002.

With high school years passing in the blink of an eye, the final piece is in place and the puzzle is complete. It is now time to start on a new puzzle. For some it will be difficult; for others, the pieces will fall easily into place.

Guest speaker, Mr. John Lamberie, uses his close ties to his students and theatrics to get his point across to the Class of 2002.



After delivering her speech on the obstacles she had to overcome to get through high school, Kathy Barnes receives her diploma cover and shakes hands with Principal Dr. Mark Sperling



Looking through the crowd of seniors, Chia Chiang and Megan Brown search for their friends after the ceremony. Many seniors went in search of their friends so they could share this night.

Getting ready to turn their tassels, Chris Nahik, Jaclyn Naujakas and Nilaja Neely stand up and cheer. Seniors made this a memorable night as they placed the final pieces in their puzzles.



AT THE HEAD OF THEIR CLASS

HAATAL DAVE

- Q. Full name: Haatal B. Dave
 Q. Date of Birth: June 5, 1984
 Q. What extra-curricular activities do you participate in?
 Track and field and cheering on the varsity Baseball Team.
 Q. Who/What inspires you and why?
 My boyfriend Kevin inspires me and motivates me in academics and sports. He's accomplished so much and pushes me to accomplish more and go above and beyond my capabilities.
 Q. Favorite pastimes?
 Hanging out at the beach, playing ultimate frisbee and beating the boys in all our competitions.
 Q. Hours spent studying?
 As little as possible.
 Q. College and intended major?
 Northwestern University and undecided on major.
 Q. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
 Hopefully I'll have a successful job and get to travel around Europe.
 Q. Did you expect to be valedictorian?
 Ever since I was little, my parents have pushed me towards perfection so, no, I'm not really surprised.



MIRKA IVANOVIĆ



- Q. Full name: Mirka Ivanovic
 Q. Date of Birth: February 20, 1984
 Q. What extra-curricular activities do you participate in?
 Academic Decathlon, National Honor Society, peer tutor and elementary school volunteer tutor.
 Q. Who/What inspires you and why?
 My family and friends inspire me because anytime I have ever doubted myself they were there to support and encourage me to do my best and remind me that I have the strength to do anything my heart desires.
 Q. Favorite pastimes?
 Photography, reading and going to concerts.
 Q. Hours spent studying?
 Not as many as people would think.
 Q. College and intended major?
 University of Indianapolis for psychology.
 Q. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
 Unfortunately, I lack the psychic ability to see myself 10 years from now. I have imagined plenty of possible scenarios, but I remind myself that fate's unpredictable nature often has a way of changing goals and altering life's path. In 10 years, I hope I am happy with whatever I am doing. As for the rest, hopefully, I'll keep singing. "Whatever tomorrow brings, I'll be there with open arms and open eyes."

CHRIS KORS

- Q. Full name: Christopher Matthew Kors
 Q. Date of Birth: November 28, 1983
 Q. What extra-curricular activities do you participate in?
 I'm involved in NHS and Jazz Strings.
 Q. Who/What inspires you and why?
 My parents and grandparents since they have always been supportive in everything that I've done.
 Q. Favorite pastimes?
 Playing, watching sports and listening to music.
 Q. Hours spent studying? Two hours per week.
 Q. College and intended major?
 Purdue University-Lafayette.
 Q. What major are you pursuing?
 Engineering.
 Q. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
 I see myself with a family and a good job that I enjoy.
 Q. Did you expect to be salutatorian or did this come as a surprise?
 I never really thought about it before my senior year.



VALEDICTORIANS / SALUTATORIAN

JULIE LESNIAK

- Q. Full name: Julie Anne Lesnick
 Q. Date of Birth: December 31, 1983
 Q. What extra-curricular activities did you participate in?
 Varsity tennis, Vocal Teens, Key Club, NHS, JETS, French Club and Student Advisory Board.
 Q. Who/What inspires you and why?
 My parents, my close family and friends, my teachers and my religion inspire me to become the best possible person I can be in all aspects of my life. These people have strongly impacted my life and I admire them. My religion as well has helped me to establish the morals and values of which I lead my life.
 Q. Favorite pastimes?
 Playing cards with family, dancing and spending time with friends.
 Q. Hours spent studying? Four hours per day.
 Q. College and intended major?
 Purdue University (Lafayette) for chemistry/pharmaceutical sciences.
 Q. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
 I see myself as a pharmaceutical chemist who is happily married and looks to start a family. I will probably stay in Indiana, but it depends on job availability and family-associated factors.



LISA ROSS



- Q. Full name: Lisa Marie Ross
 Q. Date of Birth: November 21, 1983
 Q. What extra-curricular activities did you participate in?
 Soccer, swimming, tennis, Quill & Scroll, boys' tennis manager, NHS, newspaper, Environmental Club and Science Olympiad.
 Q. Who/What inspires you and why?
 Lots of people inspire me, parents, grandparents, friends and teachers. All of them have done something extraordinary, at least in my eyes. Plus, I am very self-motivated as well. The idea of success drives me to always do the best I can.
 Q. Favorite pastimes?
 I just like to chill with my friends when I have free time.
 Q. Hours spent studying?
 I've done my share of studying, but I don't really keep track. The number is probably not as high as you would think.
 Q. College and intended major?
 Western Kentucky University for print journalism.
 Q. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
 I'm hoping by then I'll be working my way toward becoming editor of a major publication, married or at least in a meaningful relationship.

MARISSA VAWTER

- Q. Full name: Marissa Meredith Vawter
 Q. Date of Birth: November 20, 1983
 Q. What extra-curricular activities did you participate in?
 Jazz Band, Marching Band, Concert Band, Pep Band, Orchestra, Soccer, NHS, Academic Superbowl and private piano lessons.
 Q. Who/What inspires you and why?
 My friends, especially Chia, Megan and Melissa. Not only are my friends 100 percent supportive of each other, but they all accomplish amazing things every day. Watching them succeed inspires me to be both a good student and person.
 Q. Favorite pastimes?
 Reading, working out (1001), going to the movies and road trips with my friends.
 Q. Hours spent studying? One hour a day.
 Q. College and intended major?
 University of South Carolina at Columbia and undecided about major.
 Q. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
 Hopefully, I'll be both happy and successful in a career that lets me travel a lot and be with my family.



SENIOR AWARDS

BEST PERSONALITY

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Chris Gabriel and Maegan McPhee



MOST POPULAR

Chris Gabriel and Brittany Cobb



MOST ATHLETIC

Steve Gill and Julie Seagraves

MOST INTELLIGENT

Dan Lexsa and Marissa Vawter



BEST DRESSED

Aleeza Smith and Mark Koves



BEST CAR

Theresa Nixon
and Jimmy Karamocosi



BEST DANCER

Elena Gonzalez
and Dave Perry (Not Pictured)



BEST ACTOR/ACTRESS

Matt Cunningham and Cindy Wahlman

CHOKE AWARDS 213



MOST SPIRITED

Casby Williams and Julie Lesniak



NICEST SMILE

Rachel Caruthers and Joe Thomas



MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

Tom Dobes and Julie Lesniak



MOST MUSICAL

Dathan Echols and Nilaja Neely



CLASS CLOWN

Tommy Sovich, Dave Strom,
Megan Ternes, Sarina Wilkerson
and Danielle Ragon (Not Pictured)



MOST TALKATIVE

Josh Everett and Tammy Grzesik

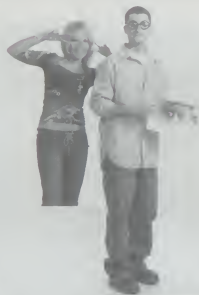
BEST HAIR

Rachel Hammond and Chris Lesnick



NICEST EYES

Matt Aloia and Sammy Grzesik



BEST BODY

Jeff Meding and Danielle Molchan



CUTEST COUPLE

Luke Nienhaus and Tina Coburn

CHOKE AWARDS 215



Kristina Coburn, Erin Margon, Rachel Hammond, Jennifer Sierra, Brittany Cobb,
Katie Floyd, Melissa Vargas, Sammy Grzesak and Kelly Polster



Brandon McVade, Dathan Echols and Mark Kovacs



Chris Kors and Tony Allison



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Steve Gill



Kristyn Vailloncourt and Joyne Horon

WHAT ARE YOU ANTICIPATING



"I'm looking forward to going to college, having fun and figuring out what I am in the process."

Melissa Sanchez

"Reality hitting me like a Mock Truck"

Mitch Lynn



"Creating a new life and having fun while I'm doing it."

Ariel Dennie

"Making new memories and having new experiences"

Tom Dobes



Marissa Vawter, Megan Brown,
Melissa Sanchez and Chia Chiang



Keith Gough and Steve Summers



Brittany
Cabb
and Erin
Margan



Stacey Hooks and Eugene Allen



Kristyn Vallancourt, Justin Curtis and Jayne Haran



Candace Kapranas
and Shakella Clark

ABOUT GRADUATION?



"I'm anticipating moving forward toward my next step in life."

Kate Czubik

"Going to college and ending up in heavy debt because of my school loans."

Kevin Sager



"I'm looking forward to becoming very successful."

Dathan Echols

"Live your life, because I can't wait to become very successful in my life"

Irvin Moore



Rachel Caruthers, Tiffany Davis and Nilaja Neely



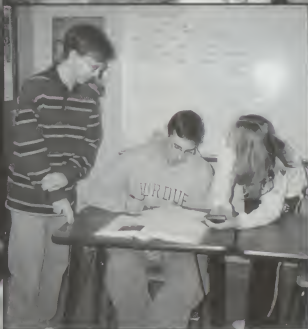
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Lisa Frolinger



Kristofer Dabu



Tom Dabes, Jon Jasinski and Julie Lesnick



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your dreams a reality!

Love,
Mom & Dad

Lisa Ross



Congratulations, Scooter



Carlos M. Casanova

We Love You!!!

Good Job, Aaron 'AGIZ'



Aaron D. Green

Keep achieving and believing.
Congratulations
Love, Dad, Mom & Ashley

Congratulations, Anelida



Anelida M. Aponte

We're proud
of your accomplishments.

Love,
Mom, Dad
& Your Sister 'Edwina'

Congratulations, Brandon!



There's a wonderful dream
Waiting just for you —
You can make it come true.
You're awesome!!

Love,
Mom

Brandon M. McVade



We love you, Noey.

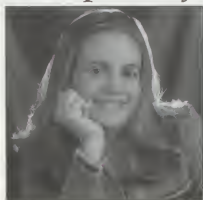


Noel Valle Jr.

**We are proud of all
you have accomplished.**

**Love,
Mom, Dad, Vanessa**

***Congratulations, Amanda
I'm so proud of you!***



Amanda Panning

***May all your goals
and dreams come true.***

***Love,
Mom***

Congratulations, Elena



***We're proud
of all your
accomplishments.***
**Love,
Mom, Jeff, Priscilla,
Deanna & Anthony**

Elena Gonzalez



**Carey,
Don't ever stop wanting
the best for yourself!**



Carey Ruckman

***Good Luck
at St. Mary's!
We Love You,
Mom & John***

Congratulations, Joshua



Josh Everett
**Love,
Mom, Dad & David**



Congratulations, Katrese



Katrese Sawyer

You've dreamed, overcome and
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Grandma and Grandpa DeBoy

Congratulations, Nathan



Nathan Walker

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Love, Mom & Dad

Jon



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Jonathan Jasinski



**Good Luck.
Mom
&
Dad**



*Nicole,
Our dreams
came true...
when we
had you.*

*All our love,
Mom & Dad
& O*



Nicole Birmingham



"Pretty is pretty does."

*Hey girl, I want to be just like you.
Love, Aubrie*



Joe Mustafa

Congratulations, Joey—

*We're so proud
of who you are.
We Love You,
Mom, Dad & Jenny*



Felix L. Roman Jr.

*Your future
is what you make of it.
We love you.
Mom, Dad, sisters,
grandparents, aunt
and family*

Congratulations, Gen!



Genevieve Tucker

*Happiness and best wishes to you.
May all your dreams come true.
Love, Mom*

Congratulations, Melissa



Melissa Stewart

*I can do all things
through Christ Jesus
who strengthens me...*

*We are so proud of you.
Love,
Dad, Mom & Eric*



Congratulations, Gerald



Gerald Mosley Jr.
*We're proud of you
and your accomplishments.
Love,
Mom, Dad, Brandon and Morgan*

Jess,



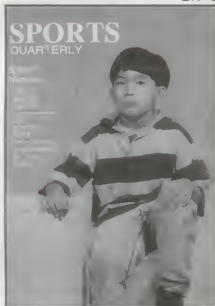
Jessica R. Gonzalez
*Aspira y tendrás mucho éxito.
Con nuestro cariño y orgullo,
Dad, Mom, Nick & Grandma*

**Congratulations,
Jonathan**



Jonathan J. Budz
*We're proud
of your accomplishments.
Love,
Mom & Dad*

Great Job, Chris — Congratulations



**Your hard work helped
you to accomplish
so much this far.
We wish you all the best
in college. Keep aiming
high and good luck.**

**Love,
Mom, Dad
Jenny — Ken — Lindsey**

Chris Gabriel



Congratulations, Meghan!



Meghan Mauman

**May all your
dreams come true.
We're proud
of you!
Love,
Mom, Dad and Tom**

Congratulations, Mandy



Amanda Elser

*We're proud of you.
Love,
Mom, Dad & Ashley*





Kelly,
May your future hold success,
and may your life be filled
with love and happiness.

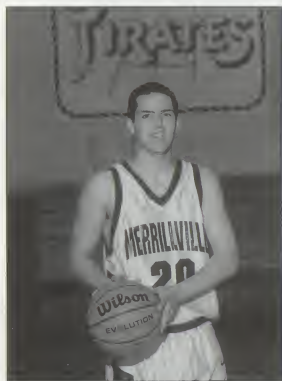
Reach for the stars!

Love,
Mom & Dad

Kelly Polster



Allen Bobowsky



Allen,

Where have all the years gone? Just yesterday you were in my arms. Just yesterday, I took you to your 1st day of school. Just yesterday you were my little Allen who would run into my arms with that huge smile of yours — or so it seems.

You are to embark on a new journey now. Always remember you are the master of your fate. You will only be limited in life by how far you can dream and as much as you are willing to work for.

May peace, joy and love accompany you all the days of your life. God bless you always.

Congratulations!!!

We are all proud of you.

Ryan, Mark, Misty, Mom and Dad



THEN



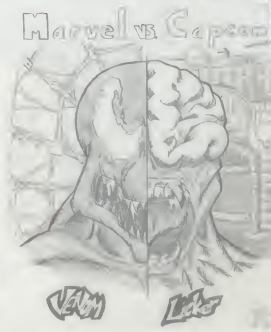
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Adam,
We are so proud
of you and we
love you so much.
Congratulations,
Dad, Mom
& Kristina



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NOW



We're proud of you, Candace



*Best wishes
for a successful future.
May you continue
to shine.*

*From
Calumet Township
Trustee Staff*

Candace Kapranos



Felecia,

**Set your goals high and don't stop
until you get there. You can do it!**



Felecia M. Renner

**Best wishes
for a successful
future.**

**Love,
Mom & Joe**

Congratulations, Ed



Edward R. McCollum Jr.

**We're proud
of your accomplishments.**

**Love,
Mom & Dad**

Congratulations, Kara

**We are
so proud
of you.**

**Love,
Mom, Mike, Juston,
Michaela,
Grandma Helmer**



Kara Miller



*Congratulations,
Josh 'The Franchise'*



Joshua E. Harvath

You ARE the whole show!
Mom & Dad Productions



Jason Giordano

You are
one terrific kid.
We are
so proud of you -
Good Luck,
Love,
Nana & Poppa Lenkey

R.O.Y.
Congratulations
'Roy the Wonder'



Roy Wilbanks

We're proud of you.
Love, Mom & Dad

Congratulations, Mark Alan



Mark Alan Kovcs

We're proud of you.
Keep the music coming.
May your future be bright.
Good Luck.
Love, Mom & Dad

Congratulations, Tiffany



Tiffany Wesley

May God Bless Your Future.
Mom & Daddy B



Missy Russell

Missy,
No mother
has been
more proud!
Love,
Mom





*Rachel-
You've come
a long way baby!
We're so proud of you and
we're sure going to miss
seeing your smiling face
cheering at all the football
and basketball games.*

*Lots of love,
Mom & Dad*

Rachel Hammond



Congratulations, Sammy and Tammy



Sammy Grzesik

***We're proud
of both of you.
Good Luck
in the future.
Love,
Mom and Dad***



Tammy Grzesik



*Candace,
We are so proud that
you have come this far.
You are special to us.
Your goals are positive
and your focus is clear.
We know that you will
have a successful future.
Keep up the good work.*

*Love,
Mom & Dad*

Candace Kapranos





Congratulations, Brittany

Our special princess,
you have the fortitude
for life's success.

We love you
very much.
Mom, Porscha,
Michael and Steven

Brittany Cobb



*Beti —
Congratulations
on everything
you've done!
We're proud
of you!
Good luck
in everything
you do in years
to come.*

*Love always,
Dad, Mom,
Tom, Pete &
Baba*

Elizabeth Ilievski

Congratulations, Jayne



Jayne Horan

*You made it, Honey!
We love you,
Mom & Dad*

Congratulations, Kristyn



Kristyn Vaillancourt

***Best Wishes
for a Bright Future
Love, Mom & Terry***

We're proud of you, Matthew

*May all your dreams
come true.
Best wishes
for a successful future!*

*Love,
Mom & Dad
Christine & Erica*

Matthew Aloia





Michael Rodriguez
*Congratulations
 Mike*

*We Love You!
 Mom, Scott & Michelle*

Dana,
 Reach for the stars,



Dana Kraska

Make wishes
 come true . . .
 If you believe!
 Love, Mom, Dad
 & Niki



Chris,
 Congrats
 on all your
 accomplishments!
 Keep the magic rope.
 Love, Mom

Chris Kors



Congratulations Lauren!



*Keep your feet
 on the ground,
 but never stop
 reaching for the stars!
 Love,
 Mom & Dad*

Lauren Homola



Congratulations, Lisa

*If you can dream it,
you can achieve it.*

*Love,
Mom, Dad
and Lauren*

Lisa Ann Fralinger



We're proud
of both
Natie and Angel

***We knew
you could do it!
Love,
Mom & Manny***

Julio Angel Garcia
and
Natasha Ivelisse Garcia



Congratulations, Nick

*We are so proud
of your accomplishments,
and most importantly,
the person you are.
Continue to learn as though you
would never be able to master it.
Aspire to be more talented
tomorrow than you are today.
We believe in you.*

*Love,
Mom & Dad*

Nickolas Roberts



Congratulations, Nancy!



*No dejes que nadie
te quite tu sueño . . .
May all your dreams
come true.*

*Love,
Papi, Mami, Anna, Gaby,
Mari and Adriana*

Nancy Garcia



Congratulations, Kevin

*We're proud
of your
accomplishments.*

*Mom and
G & G*

Kevin Lewis



Jason Giordano
We're proud of you!
Love,
Mom & Dad



*May all your
dreams become
reality —
I am proud
of the person
you've become —*

*Love,
Mom*

Tony Allison



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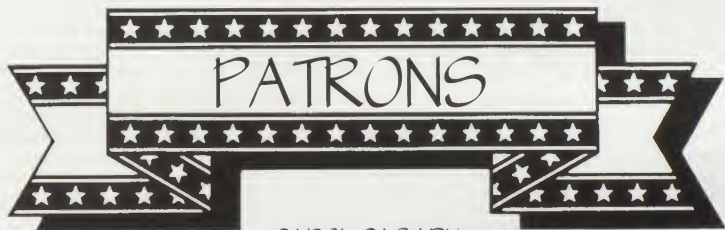
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The staff of the 2002 *Merrillvue*: Rachel Hammond, Brittany Cobb, Candace Kapranas, Shakeila Clark, Elena Gonzalez, Adam Milcevic, Allen Bobowski, Kelly Polster, Tammy Grzesik, Erin Morgan, Kristina Milcevic, Kate Santerama, Kristyn Vaillancourt, Kim Shoply, Elizabeth Ilievski, Kelly Simanson, Natasha Garcia, Jayne Haran, Dave Uremovich, Kara Lux, Lauren Strom, Megan Brown.

Editor's Note

As the year draws to a close, it's time to make closing remarks. Many people helped along the way to complete this book.

A big "thank you" goes to the three hardest-working people on the staff. First, thank you to Kate: All of this will be yours next year. Take care of the yearbook and make me proud. Next I'd like to thank Kristina Milcevic: You took care of the bookkeeping and advertising. You were amazing at every turn and always had a smile on your face. Finally, a big thanks goes to Mrs. Procter: I don't know what to say except it was a great four years. You've done a great job so far on the Newspaper and Yearbook, and it's only going to get better.

To the staff: Thank you for putting whatever creative input you had into this book, whether it was a big contribution or the smallest. I hope you are proud of what you've helped create for future generations to see.

And last, but not least, apologies to all the teachers whose classes we interrupted.

I hope everyone enjoys the yearbook. A lot of blood, sweat and tears went in to making this book its best. Thanks to everyone who I've forgotten to mention. You know who you are, and the yearbook has benefited from your input.

Megan Brown

Colophon

Merrillville High School is a registered member of Quill and Scroll, Columbia Scholastic Press Association and Indiana High School Press Association. Volume 77 of the *Merrillvue* is entitled "Piecing It All Together." Editor-in-chief Megan Brown and Co-Editor Jayne Haran led the staff, which met daily during the fourth hour under the direction of the adviser, Mrs. Teresa Procter.

Prices of the 2002 book started at \$25 in September, increasing to \$40 in December, and again in May to \$45.

Mrs. Valerie T. Tanke was the sales representative for Walsworth Publishing Company, which published the *Merrillvue*.

The staff used Adobe Pagemaker, Adobe Photoshop and Microsoft Word to put the book together. The fonts that were used throughout the book were *Maxima* for body text and captions, *Corbin* in *Lifestyles*, *OneChild* in *Sports*, *Constance* in the opening and closing, *Daisy* in *Performing Arts*, *Molehill* in *Academics* and *Yearbook* in the Senior pages.

Underclass and faculty photos in the yearbook were taken by *Lifetouch Prestige Portraits*. John Bir and his staff at *John Giosol Photographers* took senior portraits, sports, clubs and organizations photos. Tony Allison and Mrs. Lori Pateet also lent their photography skills by taking photos of activities throughout the year.

The Yearbook staff acknowledges and appreciates the work done by Valerie T. Tanke, for answering our questions; John Bir, for the amazing photos; Caleb Batemen, for proof-reading and correcting stories; the Technology Department; the Athletic Department; Main Office and Guidance Department secretaries, for your never-ending help; Mr. Mark Ciesielski and staff, for the morning announcements, PNIN Pages, and commercials to advertise the 2002 *Merrillvue*.

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased by 1.5 million, and the number of people aged 75 and over has increased by 1.2 million (Office for National Statistics 1999).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people in the community. The Department of Health (1999) has published a strategy for older people, which sets out a vision for the future of older people's services. The strategy is based on the following principles: older people should be able to live independently in their own homes; older people should be able to participate in the community; and older people should be able to access the services they need.

The strategy also sets out a number of objectives for the future of older people's services. These include: to improve the quality of life of older people; to reduce the number of older people who are in care homes; to increase the number of older people who are employed; and to increase the number of older people who are active in the community.

The strategy is a key document for the development of older people's services in the UK. It provides a framework for the development of policies and services for older people. It also provides a basis for the evaluation of older people's services.

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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased from 10.5 million to 12.5 million, and the number of people aged 75 and over has increased from 4.5 million to 6.5 million (Office of National Statistics 2000).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people in the community. The Department of Health (1999) has published a strategy for older people, which sets out a vision for the future of older people's services. The strategy is based on the principle of 'active ageing', which is the process of maintaining and enhancing the health, participation and security of older people. The strategy also sets out a number of key objectives, including: to improve the health and well-being of older people; to increase the participation of older people in society; and to ensure that older people are secure and safe.

The strategy also sets out a number of key actions, including: to improve the health and well-being of older people; to increase the participation of older people in society; and to ensure that older people are secure and safe. The strategy also sets out a number of key actions, including: to improve the health and well-being of older people; to increase the participation of older people in society; and to ensure that older people are secure and safe.

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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased from 10.5 million to 12.5 million, and the number of people aged 75 and over has increased from 4.5 million to 6.5 million (Office of National Statistics 1999). The number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase to 15.5 million by the year 2020, and the number of people aged 75 and over to 8.5 million (Office of National Statistics 1999).

There is a growing awareness of the need to develop services to meet the needs of older people, and a number of initiatives have been developed to address this need. The Department of Health (1999) has published a strategy for older people, which sets out the government's commitment to improve the lives of older people. The strategy is based on three main principles: (1) to ensure that older people have the opportunity to live independently and actively; (2) to ensure that older people have access to the services and support they need; and (3) to ensure that older people are treated with respect and dignity. The strategy is being implemented through a number of initiatives, including the development of new services and the improvement of existing services.

One of the key initiatives is the development of new services to meet the needs of older people. This includes the development of new housing schemes, new health services, and new social services. The government is also investing in the improvement of existing services, such as the development of new care homes and the improvement of existing care homes. The government is also investing in the development of new services to support older people in their homes, such as the development of new home care services and the improvement of existing home care services.

The government is also investing in the development of new services to support older people in their communities. This includes the development of new community centres, new libraries, and new sports centres. The government is also investing in the improvement of existing services, such as the development of new community centres and the improvement of existing community centres. The government is also investing in the development of new services to support older people in their families, such as the development of new family care services and the improvement of existing family care services.

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There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people in the community. The Department of Health (1999) has published a strategy for older people, which sets out the government's commitment to older people and the actions that will be taken to improve their lives. The strategy is based on the following principles:

- Older people should be able to live independently and actively in the community.
- Older people should be able to access the services and facilities they need.
- Older people should be able to participate in the decisions that affect their lives.
- Older people should be able to live in a safe and secure environment.

The strategy also sets out a number of specific actions that will be taken to improve the lives of older people, including:

- Improving the quality of care in residential care homes.
- Improving the quality of care in nursing homes.
- Improving the quality of care in day care centres.
- Improving the quality of care in home care services.

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